

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.



4.  
ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

BEING THE FIRST PART OF

ANIMAL MAGNETISM AND HOMŒOPATHY.

WITH NOTES

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE

INFLUENCE OF THE MIND ON THE BODY.

BY EDWIN LEE, Esq.

MEMBER OF THE PRINCIPAL EUROPEAN MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETIES; AUTHOR OF THE BATHS OF GERMANY; A TREATISE ON SOME NERVOUS DISORDERS; THE JACKSONIAN PRIZE ESSAY ON THE OPERATIONS FOR STONE, &c.

THIRD EDITION,

WITH CONSIDERABLE ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS.

"There are more things in heaven and earth  
Than are dreamt of in *our* philosophy."

HAMLET.

LONDON:  
J. CHURCHILL, PRINCES STREET, SOHO.

1843.

LONDON:  
PRINTED BY G. J. PALMER, SAVOY STREET, STRAND.

## PREFACE.

---

WHEN I appended to the first edition of my *Observations on the Medical Institutions and Practice, of France, Italy, and Germany*, an account of *Animal Magnetism and Homœopathy*, respecting which the English public and medical profession were at that time, with some exceptions, in ignorance, I did not anticipate that I should have to enlarge it into a separate work, which I felt myself called upon to do about four years ago, in consequence of the increased interest which these subjects had attracted. Public attention having been of late more strongly directed, both to *Animal Magnetism* and to *Homœopathy*, some idea may be formed from the present edition of their actual state and claims to consideration. As regards the former, as I have no wish to make a book by the accumulation of extraordinary cases, I have selected those only which appear to me to be best authenticated, by the reports of the commissions instituted by the *Académie Royal de Médecine*, and by many well-known and credible individuals; and if from a consideration of the facts which have been elicited of late years, as well as from a better acquaintance with the sentiments of a large proportion of the medical and scientific world abroad,\* I have seen reason to alter and modify the

\* The belief in *Animal Magnetism* is pretty universal in Germany, though opinions are divided with respect to the higher order of phenomena.

opinions expressed in the former edition, I shall not, I trust, be accused, on that account, of being unduly biassed, as my object is more especially to present an impartial statement of what has occurred, from which the reader may be enabled to form his own judgment. I cannot, however, refrain from alluding to an erroneous impression which some persons entertain, that investigations and experiments on Animal Magnetism, tend to spread scepticism in matters of religion. Indeed, the author of a recent work,\* who acknowledges that he has seen nothing of Magnetism, goes so far as to state, not only that it is opposed to religion, but that those who support it are persons unworthy of credit, and not to be trusted. This is unjustifiable, for men of the highest intellect and theological reputation do not hesitate to admit, that religion can but be a gainer from the advancement of science. Thus, Lord Brougham observes, "A pure and true religion has nothing to fear from the greatest expansion which the understanding can receive by the study either of matter or mind. The more widely science is diffused, the better will the Author of all things be known, and the less will the people be 'tossed to and fro by the sleight of men and the cunning craftiness whereby they lie in wait to deceive.'"

Bishop Hall likewise observes, "Human learning makes us capable of divine. There is no knowledge whereof God is not the author. He would never have bestowed any gift that should lead us away from himself. It is an ignorant conceit that an inquiry into nature should make men atheistical. No man is so apt to see the star of Christ, as a diligent disciple of philosophy."†

And with respect to the advance of knowledge, another religious author remarks: "But because in this day of light and truth, we are much superior to those dark ages in everything that can dignify and

\* The Great Physician.

† Contemplations.

bless human nature, let us not think our work completed, or that we have no more to do. The blessed period is probably hastening, when an enlightened race of men shall look back upon our generation with as much compassion as we now feel for the victims of oppression and superstition in what we are pleased to call the dark ages.”\*

As regards Homœopathy, there is no difference in the estimation of its pretensions by the profession abroad and on this side the channel; the non-proof professional public, however, will be better able to form an opinion respecting it, after a perusal of the following account, and of the notes illustrative of the influence of the mind on the body.

\* Sturm's Reflections—See also the subjoined extracts from Bakewell's Natural Evidence, &c.

*28, South Street, Hyde Park Square.*

*170, North Street, Brighton.*

*March, 1843.*



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2015

<https://archive.org/details/b2243270x>



## ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

---

“Il ne faut pas juger ce qui est possible et ce qui ne l'est pas selon ce qui est croyable ou incroyable à notre sens, c'est une faute en laquelle la plupart des hommes tombent, de faire difficulté de croire d'autrui ce qu'eux ne sauraient ou ne voudraient faire.”—*Montaigne*.

VARIOUS definitions of the nature of animal magnetism have been proposed by those who have treated upon the subject. The best is, perhaps, that which considers it as an influence depending upon a certain state of the nervous system presenting phenomena which may be caused in some persons by other individuals performing certain actions with the intention of producing this state. This influence of the nervous power of one individual over another, is supposed to bear an analogy with that of the magnet upon iron,—hence the term.\* I do not purpose entering into the early history of animal magnetism, which is said to have been manifested from the earliest periods, but which was first introduced into France from Germany as a specific power about the middle of the last century, by an individual of the name of Mesmer, (from whom the term “Mesmerism,” which is frequently used synonymously with “animal magnetism,” is derived,) who practised the art differently from the magnetisers of more recent times, and to

\* The analogy between the nervous and electric fluids has been recently demonstrated by Prevost of Geneva, who succeeded in imparting magnetic properties to needles, by placing them very near to nerves, and perpendicularly to the direction in which he supposed the electric current would pass along them.

whom many of the phenomena which have subsequently occurred were unknown. The persons to be magnetised were assembled in a room dimly lighted with tapers, and were placed in a circle around a (supposed magnetic) covered vessel, (*baquet*,) each person being connected with the others by means of wires or cords;\* the music from a harpsichord or piano was heard from an adjoining apartment, while various manœuvres were performed by male assistants for the space of an hour or two; after which, Mesmer himself, clad in a robe of light coloured silk, entered with grave aspect, and holding in his hand a rod, which he directed to different parts of the bodies of the magnetised, who did not fail to experience various symptoms, as heat, perspirations, muscular twitching, which terminated by producing in many of them a crisis, or convulsive attacks of an hysterical nature. The more marked effects were, as may be supposed, most frequently produced in females, and men of a nervous temperament. Whenever the convulsive actions were produced in one, the others became speedily affected. On many persons, however, the process produced no effect. Among these were the commissioners appointed by the Académie des Sciences to investigate and report upon the proceedings.

This practice was for a long period in high repute for the cure of various complaints, and its originator realized a large fortune, having refused a pension of thirty thousand francs, which was offered him by the minister to induce him to make public the mysteries of his art.† After its examination,

\* “ De malades plus gais une docile troupe  
De cordons entourés, et des fers sur le sein  
En cercle environnoit le magique bassin.”

*Delille.*

† The very mystery in which Mesmer enveloped his treatment tended to excite curiosity, while it withdrew the attention from the active principle, and thus caused him to be regarded individually as

however, and condemnation in the report of the Académie des Sciences and the Académie Royale de Médecine, it lost much of the consideration it had previously enjoyed, until it sank by degrees into comparative disuse.

Some of Mesmer's disciples, however, continued to use the magnetic *baquets* and trees; they likewise employed magnetised baths, recommended the drinking magnetised water, carrying magnetised plates of glass upon the stomach, and their treatment in general was calculated to produce strong crises or convulsive actions, which they considered as a remedial process of nature, and endeavoured to bring them on by artificial means. Rooms, called *chambres des crises*, were fitted up for the purpose, the walls and floor being covered with cushions to prevent the patients, while in convulsions, from injuring themselves.

An establishment was subsequently formed at Strasbourg, under the auspices of M. de Puysegur, one of the most zealous advocates of magnetism, which was called the *Société Harmonique des Amis Réunis*. The *chambres de crise* were abolished, and in consequence of the more gentle treatment, the violent crises seldom occurred, a state of partial sleep or somnambulism, unknown to Mesmer, being the most frequent effect of the improved mode of magnetising: hence the persons affected have since been termed somnambulists.

About five-and-twenty years ago, public attention was again drawn to the subject in France: several works were published upon it; some physicians of

an extraordinary personage, full of the old Egyptian wisdom, and conversant with all the secret influences of nature. This, while it extended his reputation, seemed to flatter the vanity and mystical disposition of the man. His house became crowded with patients of all ranks and from every quarter; and such was the extent and success of his practice that he is said to have amassed a large fortune."—*Isis Revelata, an Inquiry into Animal Magnetism*, by J. C. Colquhoun, Esq., Edinburgh.

professional and scientific attainments declared themselves believers in the powers of animal magnetism, and numerous experiments were made upon the state of magnetic sleep, or somnambulism. This state is usually induced, in susceptible individuals, by the magnetiser willing to produce it, and by certain movements of his hands, termed *passes*, which were formerly made in the following manner, the persons present being required to maintain strict silence. The magnetiser, seated or standing before the person to be magnetised, placed his hands for a minute or two on the hands of the person, then on the shoulders, whence he brought them down, slightly touching the arms, to beyond the fingers. This was repeated a few times. He then passed his hands from the head an inch or two distant from the person's body down to the stomach or lower, occasionally placing two or three fingers on the forehead, or epigastrium. In most cases, however, the gradual movements of the hand before the face are sufficient. These or similar movements are continued during the greater part of the sitting, and are sometimes varied by transverse *passes* made across the face and breast with greater or less rapidity. After a person has been magnetised several times, the *passes* are frequently unnecessary to reproduce the somnambulatory state, the magnetisers pointing to, or merely looking fixedly at, the individual, with the intention of magnetising, being in many cases sufficient. The person may usually be awakened by transverse *passes*, made by rapidly separating the closed hands before the face, or by blowing upon him, with the intention of awakening him.

Most magnetisers consider the movements or *passes* as very subordinate means: the will being the influence which determines the effects. "The magnetiser," says one author, "may act in one way and think in another: it is thus the thought that the subject comprehends and obeys. Thus, for ex-



ample: the magnetiser raises an arm, and wills that the somnambulist should raise a leg; it is the will which will be obeyed, and the gesture will not be copied."\*

The phenomena most commonly presented by persons subjected to magnetisation are varied and numerous: frequent winking of the eyelids, spontaneous paleness or flushing, a feeling of heat or cold in the head, epigastrium, or extremities; partial or general pricking, muscular contractions, spasms, an accelerated or retarded circulation, palpitations; some experience an indescribable sensation of calm and well-being; others, a general feeling of indisposition, a state of somnolency for a longer or shorter period analogous to coma.

When, in magnetic somnambulism, the individuals are, to a greater or less extent, insensible to external stimuli, as noises of all kinds, pungent substances (as ammonia) applied to the nostrils, pinching, pricking, or other mechanical irritation of the skin, but at the same time are mostly able to hear when addressed by the magnetiser, (or by persons placed in connexion *en rapport* with them,) answering questions and performing various actions ordered by him. These effects are not equally obtainable upon all, and several have been subjected for hours to the action of a powerful magnetiser without experiencing any, or only slight, effects. Certain individuals experience effects altogether different from those which are manifested upon others. "Some," says M. Ricard, "are endowed with surprising sensibility, others are but little impressionable. One may, however, easily convince oneself that the same persons, who in a state of perfect health experience nothing from the action of magnetism, may be easily effected by it when they are attacked by disease. Some individuals who experience no effects from the action of one

\* Ricard. *Traité du Magnetisme Animale*. Paris, 1841.

magnetiser, would feel very marked sensations from the action of another. Climate, the condition of the atmosphere, the temperature of living or inert bodies which surround us, and the physical and moral dispositions of the magnetiser, and of the subject likewise, exert a very positive influence."

The above mentioned are, however, merely some of the more common effects, and, according to the magnetisers, are sometimes the precursors of much more wonderful phenomena; such as the transposition of the senses to other than their natural organs; *clairvoyance*, or mental vision, in which, though the eyes be closed and bandaged, objects can be distinguished by the somnambulist when before him—or even if placed on the epigastrium occiput, or other parts; the power of predicting probable events, of ascertaining the nature of diseases of individuals presented to them, of describing unknown persons at a distance, &c. &c.

Of one hundred persons subjected to magnetism in France, somnambulism was induced by M. Ricard in twenty-five. In the south of France, the proportion was from sixty to seventy per cent.; at Paris, on one hundred persons who accidentally presented themselves without any special conditions as to health or other selection, the proportion of somnambulists was twenty. Twenty-two out of twenty-five somnambulists, according to the same author, will present extraordinary phenomena, and at least ten out of this number may attain considerable lucidity. "A curious circumstance is, that it is not the persons who in their waking state possess the greatest amount of knowledge, or mental qualifications, who are brought to perfect somnambulatory lucidity. Experience has proved, on the contrary, that it is generally the most ignorant and common individuals who most frequently arrive at this extreme developement of the faculties, and who attain most quickly to perfection."

In 1825, M. Foissac proposed to the Académie de Médecine, to produce a somnambulist in whom the members of that body might witness the extraordinary phenomena caused by animal magnetism. The proposition gave rise to violent debates, which terminated in the appointment of a committee to determine as to whether the Académie ought or ought not to take cognizance in the subject. The committee decided in the affirmative upon the following grounds :—First, that the judgment pronounced by the Académie in 1784, was not founded upon reasons sufficiently conclusive ; and secondly, that the magnetism now proposed for examination differed from the Mesmerian magnetism, inasmuch as its effects were producible without actual contact between the magnetiser and the magnetised, and without the employment of metallic rods, magnetic chairs, and other similar means. After strong opposition, a commission was appointed, composed of twelve members, to examine into and report upon the experiments about to be made. The commission pursued its investigations till 1831, when it presented a report to the Académie, containing an exposition of its labours, with the inferences deduced from them, arranged under the following heads :—

1. The effects ascribed to magnetism are null in most healthy persons, and in some invalids.

2. They are but little apparent in others.

3. They are often produced by ennui, monotony, and the power of the imagination.

4. Lastly, they are developed independently of these causes, very probably by the influence of magnetism alone.

The somnambulist proposed to be presented to the Académie by M. Foissac, who, he stated, would remove all doubt as to the power of magnetism, was the first person subjected to its operation before the commission. It appears, however, that the experiment was a failure, for the commissioners say in the

report, "We must confess, our inexperience, our impatience, our mistrust, perhaps too strongly manifested, did not permit us to observe any of the phenomena of somnambulism."

It is unnecessary that I should follow the report in the enumeration of instances illustrative of the two first heads. The following cases will serve to illustrate the third position; it being sufficient to place the persons in situations in which they believed themselves magnetised, to produce similar phenomena.

"Madlle. L. was magnetised eleven times at the Hôtel Dieu, within the period of a month. At the fourth sitting, somnolency, convulsive movements of the neck and face, with other symptoms, occurred. At the eleventh sitting, the magnetiser placed himself behind her chair, without making any signs, and without the intention of magnetising; nevertheless, she experienced more decided effects than on the preceding trials."

"An hysterical girl was magnetised several times; at each time there occurred somnolency with strong convulsive actions. Being placed one day in the same chair, in the same place, at the same hour, and in the presence of the same persons, the accustomed phenomena presented themselves, though the magnetiser was absent." A like experiment was made on an epileptic patient with a similar result.

The following is an abstract of some of the cases, from which the commissioners inferred, that the phenomena were produced by the action of magnetism alone.

A child aged twenty-eight months, subject to epileptic attacks, was magnetised by M. Foissac. Almost immediately after the beginning of the passes, it rubbed its eyes, leaned its head upon one of the cushions, yawned, was agitated, scratched its head and ears, and seemed to struggle against the tendency to sleep.



A deaf and dumb boy, aged eighteen years, subject to epileptic attacks from a long period, was magnetised fifteen times ; the epileptic attacks were suspended, and only returned after an interval of eight months, which was unprecedented in the history of his disease ; he experienced besides, during the experiments, heaviness of the eyelids, general torpor, the inclination to sleep, and sometimes vertigo.

M. Itard, one of the members of the commission, who had previously been magnetised without any effect resulting, again subjected himself to the experiment after nearly a year's interval, and experienced languor without sleep, a marked excitation of the nerves of the face, convulsive movements in the nose, the muscles of the face and jaws, an accumulation in the mouth of saliva, having a metallic taste—a sensation similar to that which he had experienced from galvanism. This phenomenon recurred on subsequent occasions, when he was magnetised ; the two first sittings produced headache, which lasted several hours, at the same time his habitual pains had diminished.

After stating some instances of insensibility during somnambulism, to noises, pinching, pricking, ammonia applied to the nose, &c., the commissioners relate two or three cases where the somnambulists failed to execute the orders transmitted to them mentally by the magnetiser, of which I shall merely quote one.

In a Madame C., living in the same house as the magnetiser, it was proposed to exhibit the mental power possessed by the magnetiser over the magnetised ; as also the communication of thoughts between them, without the intervention of speech or gesture. The proposal was accepted by the commissioners, who repaired to the house, and when the somnambulist was produced, gave directions in writing to the magnetiser, indicating the actions which they desired to see performed, which were to be signified mentally to

the somnambulist. Thus, she is first ordered to go and sit on a stool before the piano; she rises and looks at the clock; on being apprised of her mistake, she goes into another room, and on being again informed of her error, she sits down. She is next desired to raise her hand at the same time as her magnetiser, and to lower it at the same time; the two hands are raised simultaneously, but that of Madame C. is not lowered at the same time as the magnetiser's. The back of a watch is presented to her; she mistakes the hour and the number of the hands; she is told to rub her forehead, but she merely extends her hands.

The result of this and one or two other cases, rendered the commissioners somewhat suspicious of a previous understanding between the magnetisers and the somnambulists. M. Dupotet\* offered to remove their doubts, and engaged to produce at will, and out of the sphere of the sight of those whom he would throw into somnambulism, convulsive movements in any part of their body, by the mere action of pointing towards the part which the commissioners should indicate. A man who had already been magnetised several times, was consequently thrown into somnambulism, and after some trials upon his obedience, M. Dupotet announced that the commissioners might produce the promised effects. M. Marc, one of them, accordingly placed himself behind the somnambulist, and made a sign to M. Dupotet, to produce movements in the forefinger of his right hand, and afterwards in the toes: the somnambulist

\* M. Dupotet subsequently exhibited his experiments publicly in London. It is not unusual in France for persons who are liable to be confounded with others of the same name, to subjoin, by way of distinction, that of their native town or village, as Leroy (D'Etiolles.) M. Dupotet's name is by no means a common one: any such distinction was therefore needless, unless, knowing the importance attached by the English to high-sounding names, he preferred, on arriving in London, instead of announcing himself as M. Dupotet from Sennevoy, assuming the more aristocratic appellation of the Baron Dupotet de Sennevoy.

performed some movements, but not in the parts indicated. Similar movements, though more feeble, were subsequently made without magnetisation, and the experiment was declared to be inconclusive.

Mademoiselle Lemaître, who has been already mentioned, when it was a question of the imagination in the production of magnetic phenomena, also presented this convulsive mobility, but these movements, resembling in their rapidity those which are felt on the approach of an electrical point, sometimes took place in a part to which the fingers were pointed, and sometimes also without the pointing of the fingers. They also occurred at a longer or shorter period after the attempt which was made to produce them; sometimes this phenomenon was exhibited in one sitting, and did not appear at all in another; the approach of the fingers to one part was likewise sometimes followed by convulsive movements in a different part.

It was chiefly upon M. Petit, a teacher, aged thirty-two, that the convulsive movements have been determined with the greatest degree of precision, by the approach of the magnetiser's fingers.

"M. Dupotet," says the report, "presented him to the commissioners, the 10th August, 1826, stating to them that the man was very susceptible to somnambulic phenomena, and that while in this state, he, M. Dupotet, could at his pleasure, and without expressing it by word, produce in the parts indicated by the commissioners, evident convulsive movements, by the mere approach of his fingers to the parts. He was quickly somnambulised, and it was then that the commissioners, to obviate any suspicion of a concerted plan, placed in the hands of M. Dupotet, a note composed in silence, and at the moment in which they had stated, in writing, the parts which they wished to see convulsed.

"Following these instructions, he first directed his hand towards the right wrist, which became affected with convulsion: he afterwards placed himself be-

hind the patient, and directed his finger in the first instance towards the left thigh, then towards the left elbow, and then to the head. These three parts were almost immediately seized with convulsive movements. M. Dupotet next directed his left leg towards that of the patient, who became agitated in such a manner as to be near falling; M. Dupotet then brought his foot near the right elbow of M. Petit, and the elbow became agitated; he then carried his foot towards the left elbow and hand, and very strong convulsive actions took place in the whole limb. One of the commissioners, M. Marc, with the intention of obviating the slightest possibility of trickery, placed a bandage over the patient's eyes, and the preceding experiments were repeated, with but slight difference in the results. Upon the combined and instantaneous indication of several of us, M. Dupotet directed his finger towards the patient's left hand; on its approach both hands were agitated. We desired that the action should be directed at the same time to both the inferior extremities: at first the fingers were approached without any results; soon, however, the somnambulist moved his hands, retreated, and then agitated his feet. MM. Thil-laye and Marc directed their fingers towards various parts of the body, and provoked some convulsive movements. Thus M. Petit always had, on the approach of the fingers, convulsive movements, whether his eyes were bandaged or not, and these movements were more decided when a metallic rod, such as a key, or the branches of spectacles, was directed towards the parts. In conclusion, the commission, although witnesses of several cases in which this contractile faculty has been excited by the approach of the fingers, or of metallic rods, require further facts, in order to appreciate the phenomenon, of the constancy and value of which they do not consider themselves sufficiently enlightened to pronounce an opinion."

M. Petit likewise presented the phenomena of



clairvoyance, or sight with closed eyelids, though he was wrong in some of his statements. Thus, M. Dupotet had announced to the commissioners that the somnambulist would be able to pick out from twelve coins, that which he had held in his hand. A five-franc piece was selected, and mixed with twelve others, but M. Petit took the wrong one; a watch, of which the direction of the hands was altered from the actual hour of the day, was presented to him, and he was twice wrong in mentioning the time which they indicated. This was accounted for by saying, that M. Petit had lost some of his lucidity since he had not been so frequently magnetised; nevertheless, in the same sitting, the reporter to the commission played a game of piquet with him, and often tried to deceive him by announcing a card of one colour for another, but in vain; M. Petit played correctly, and knew the colour of his adversary's cards. Every time, however, that a substance, as a sheet of paper or parchment was placed between the eyes and the object to be designated, M. Petit could not distinguish it.

"If," says the report, "these trials had been the only ones by which we had sought to recognize *clairvoyance*, we should have concluded that the somnambulist did not possess it; but in the following experiment this faculty appeared in full evidence, and this time the success completely verified that which M. Dupotet had announced to us."

"After the patient had been thrown into somnambulism, and had exhibited some of the phenomena of muscular contraction and agitation on the approach of the fingers or foot of the magnetiser, a bandage was placed over the eyes. Having declared, however, that he could not see with the bandage, it was removed, but then constant attention was directed to the eyelids to verify that they were exactly closed. For this purpose a light was held at a little distance from the eyes during the experiment, and several

persons were watching him closely; one of them, M. Ribes, even remarked, that the edges of the eyelids were so close, that the lashes of the upper and lower lids crossed each other. The same gentleman, a member of the Académie, then presented a catalogue which he took out of his pocket; the somnambulist, after some efforts which appeared to fatigue him, read very distinctly the words—*Lavater, il est bien difficile de connoître les hommes*—these last words were in very small type. He next recognized a passport and a *port-d'armes*, which is very like a passport: after a few instants' attention he read, *De par le roi* and *Port d'armes*. An open letter was next shown him: he said he could not read it, as he did not understand English—the letter was in fact written in English. He afterwards distinguished the representation of a dog before an altar, on a snuff-box; and on a closed letter being presented to him, though he could not read it, he pointed out the direction of the lines of writing. On subsequently playing piquet, he handled the cards with the greatest exactness, and without ever being mistaken, notwithstanding attempts to deceive him were frequently made, by withdrawing or changing the cards; he counted with surprising facility the number of points marked upon his adversary's marking card.

“Whilst M. Petit was playing a second game, M. Dupotet, at the suggestion of M. Ribes, directed, from behind, his hand towards the patient's elbow, and the contraction formerly observed recurred. Then, on the proposition of M. Bourdois, he magnetised him from behind, at the distance of a foot, with the intention of awakening him. The ardour with which the somnambulist was playing, opposed this action, which seemed to annoy and vex him. He several times carried his hand to the back of his head, as if he were suffering; he afterwards fell into a stupor, which seemed to be a light natural sleep,

and on some one speaking to him in this state he waked up with a start."

"Shortly afterwards he was again magnetised, and M. Dupotet, desirous that not the shadow of a doubt should remain on the nature of a physical action, exerted at will on the somnambulist, proposed to put on him as many bandages as the commissioners pleased, and then to act upon him. In consequence, his face down to the nostrils was covered with several handkerchiefs; the cavity formed by the prominence of the nose being filled up with gloves, and a black handkerchief covered the whole, falling down to his neck like a veil. The experiments were then repeated in various ways, and the same kind of movements always manifested themselves in the parts towards which the hand or the foot were directed. After a game at *ecarté*, which the somnambulist pursued with such ardour that he remained insensible to the action of M. Bourdois, who vainly endeavoured to act upon him from behind, he rose, walked across the room, putting aside the chairs which were in his way, and went to sit down at a distance from the experimenters, when he was awakened by M. Dupotet. When awakened, he said that he retained no recollection of what had occurred during his somnambulism."

I will now refer to the cases in which the commissioners witnessed, besides clairvoyance, "the proofs of intuition, and of a foresight very remarkable, as regards themselves and others."

Paul Villagrand, a law student, was attacked, 25th December 1825, by apoplexy, with paralysis of the whole left side of the body; after seventeen months of varied treatment pursued at home, and in a *Maison de Santé*, in the course of which period he had two fresh attacks, he was admitted, 8th April 1827, in the hospital *La Charité*. Although he had experienced marked relief from the means employed before his admission, he still walked with crutches, without

being able to lean upon the left leg. The arm of the same side could execute some under movements, but he could not raise it to the head. He could hardly see with the right eye, and his hearing was very bad on both sides. In this state he was placed under the care of M. Fouquier. During five months, he was bled, purged, or blistered, from time to time, and took the extract of *nux vomica*. The left arm acquired a little strength, the headaches to which he was subject subsided, and his condition remained stationary till 29th August, 1827, on which day he was magnetised by M. Foissac, according to the order and under the direction of M. Fouquier. In this first sitting he experienced a sensation of general heat, and muscular twitchings. He was astonished at the inclination to sleep, rubbed his eyes, and made useless efforts to keep them open. From this period the deafness and the headache disappeared. It was only at the ninth sitting that the sleep became complete; on the tenth he answered by inarticulate signs to questions which were addressed to him. On a subsequent occasion he announced that he could only be cured with the assistance of magnetism, and prescribed himself sinapisms, baths of Baréges, and the continued use of pills of extract of *nux vomica*. The 25th September the commission repaired to La Charité, caused the patient to undress, and verified the circumstance that the left inferior extremity was much thinner than the other; that the left-hand pressed much less strongly than the right; that the tongue, when protruded from the mouth, was drawn towards the right commissure. On being magnetised, he again prescribed for himself, and added, that by pursuing the treatment for three days, and on being magnetised, he would be able on awaking to walk without crutches. The treatment was accordingly followed up, and on the stated day, the 25th, the commissioners arrived at the hospital. Paul entered the room supporting himself on his



crutches, and was magnetised as usual. When in somnambulism, he stated that he would return to his bed without crutches or support. When awakened, he asked for his crutches, but was answered that he did not require them,—in fact, he arose, supported himself upon the paralysed leg, passed through the crowd, which followed him, descended the steps of the conference-room, crossed the courtyard to the foot of the staircase, which, after resting himself a minute or two, he ascended with the assistance of an arm and the bannister, went to his bed without support, to the great astonishment of all the patients, who till then had only seen him fixed to his bed. From that day he did not resume his crutches.

When again magnetised, on the 11th October, he announced that he should be completely cured if a seton were established below the region of the heart. On being pricked with a pin on the eyelids, he evinced no sign of sensibility.

The magnetic experiments in the hospital were at this period put a stop to by the administrative council. The patient, however, said he could not sufficiently praise the efficacy of magnetism, and was consequently removed from the hospital by M. Foissac, who continued the treatment in a private apartment.

On the 29th of the same month, the commissioners went to his apartment to ascertain the progress of the cure, which they found materially advanced. On being somnambulised, he showed increased strength, raised M. Thillaye from the ground, and on being told to descend the staircase, abruptly quitted his chair, took the arm of M. Foissac, whom he left at the door, descended and ascended the steps two at a time with a convulsive rapidity, which, however, became moderated when he was told to ascend only one at a time. When awakened, he lost this surprising increase of strength: his gait was slow but assured; he could not support

the weight of his body upon the left leg, and he tried in vain to raise M. Foissac. It must be observed, that two days before this last experiment he had lost two pounds and a half of blood, had had blisters on his legs, a seton in the nape, and another on the breast. "You will consequently perceive with us, gentlemen," continues the Report, "what a prodigious increase of power magnetism had developed in the diseased organs, since the whole strength of the body had been more than quadrupled."

"Paul afterwards renounced all medical treatment, desiring that the remedial means should be restricted to magnetism; and towards the end of the year, as he expressed the desire to be put and kept in somnambulism during eight days, in order that his cure should be complete on the 1st January, he was magnetised on the 25th December, and from that day remained in somnambulism till the 1st January. During this time he was awakened for twelve hours at unequal intervals; and in these brief moments of the waking state, he was suffered to believe that he had only been asleep for a few hours. During the whole time of his sleep the digestive functions were performed with increased activity.

"He had been asleep three days, when, still in somnambulism, accompanied by M. Foissac, he set off on foot, the 28th December, from the Rue Mondovi, and went to find M. Fouquier at the hospital, where he arrived at nine o'clock. He there recognized the patients near whom he had slept before leaving, as also the pupils on service, and he read with closed eyes, while a finger was held on each eyelid, some words which M. Fouquier showed him.

"The 12th of January, the commissioners once more assembled at the house of M. Foissac, where were present M. E. De Las Cases, deputy; the Count De Rumigny, aide-de-camp to the king;

and M. Segalas, member of the Academy. M. Foissac stated to us, that when Paul was in the state of somnambulism, a finger might be held on each of his closed eyes, and that notwithstanding the complete occlusion of the lids, he would distinguish the colour of cards, would read the title of a book, and some lines in any part which might be opened. After a couple of minutes of magnetic gestures, Paul is asleep. The eyelids being held closed constantly and alternately by MM. Fouquier, Itard, Marc, and the reporter; a new pack of cards is brought, and the stamped envelope of the government torn off; the cards are shuffled, and Paul recognizes, easily and successively, the king of spades, the ace of clubs, queen of spades, nine of clubs, seven of diamonds, queen of diamonds, and eight of diamonds."

He also reads lines from a History of France, which the reporter had brought with him, as likewise a paper on which two words had been written. In all these experiments the fingers were applied on the whole of the commissure of the eyes, pressing the lid from above downwards, and the commissioners remarked that the globe of the eye had been in a constant movement of rotation, and seemed to direct itself towards the object submitted to vision.

Analogous effects were repeated on subsequent occasions, and the commissioners remark that

"The conclusions to be drawn from this long and curious case are easy; they flow naturally from the simple exposition of the facts which we have related, and we enumerate them in the following manner: 1st. A patient whom a rational medication by one of the first practitioners of the capital was not able to cure of paralysis, finds his cure in the employment of magnetism, and in the exactness with which the treatment is pursued, which he prescribes for himself while in somnambulism. 2nd. In this state

his strength is notably increased. 3rd. He gives us the most undeniable proof that he reads with the eyes closed. 4th. He foresees the period of his cure, and is cured at the time which he announced."

The case of another patient, a journeyman hatter, æt. 20, born of an epileptic mother, and subject to fits of epilepsy five or six times a week, for ten years, is next given in the report. This individual predicted, while in somnambulism, the periods of his attacks, and when he would be cured; the former predictions were verified, but before the term which he had fixed for his cure arrived he was knocked down by a cabriolet and killed. The commissioners observe upon this case—"We see in this instance, a young man subject during ten years to attacks of epilepsy, for which he had been successively treated at two hospitals, and exempted from military service. Magnetism acts upon him, although he is completely ignorant of what is done to him: he becomes somnambulist. The symptoms of his disease are ameliorated, the attacks diminish in frequency, his headaches and oppression disappear beneath the influence of magnetism; he prescribes himself a treatment appropriated to the nature of his disease, and from which he promises himself a cure. Being magnetised without his knowing it, and from afar, he falls into somnambulism, and is awakened from it with the same quickness as when the magnetiser is near him. Lastly, he indicates, with a rare precision, one and two months beforehand, the day and the hour at which he is to have an attack of epilepsy; nevertheless, although endowed with a foresight for attacks at so distant a period, as well as for those which are never to take place, he does not foresee that in two days he will meet with a fatal accident." On this last circumstance the commissioners remark, that the previsions of the patient relate only to his attacks, that they are reduced to the consciousness of the organic



modifications which prepare themselves and happen in him, as the necessary result of interior functions ; that these previsions, though more extended, are similar to those of certain epileptics who know from several precursory symptoms that they will have an attack. " Let us add," they continue, " that his prevision is not absolute, that it is conditional, since, when foretelling an attack, he stated that it would not take place if he were magnetised ; and, in fact, it does not take place, it is altogether organic, internal. Thus we can conceive why he did not foresee an event altogether external, viz. that chance should lead him in the way of a fiery horse, and that in attempting to stop it he should receive a mortal wound."

In the next case, the somnambulist, a female, beside the ordinary phenomena of somnambulism, exhibits that of ascertaining the symptoms of persons presented to her. One of them was M. Marc, one of the commissioners ; another was a dropsical young woman, with some peculiarities, which were indicated by the somnambulist, on touching her, with tolerable precision. " It results from these observations," says the report, " 1st. That while in the state of somnambulism, Mademoiselle C. has pointed out the diseases of three persons with whom she was placed in relation (*rapport*.) 2nd. That the declaration of the one, the examination which was made of the other, after thrice tapping, and the autopsic examination of the third, were found to accord with what the somnambulist had advanced. 3rd. That the different modes of treatment which she prescribed are not beyond the circle of remedies which she might know, nor beyond that of the order of things which she might reasonably recommend ; and 4th. That she applied them with a kind of discernment."

The report terminates by saying, " The commission has reported with impartiality that which it

had seen with distrust; it has exposed methodically that which it has observed under different circumstances, and which it has followed up with an attention as close as continued. It has the consciousness that the statements which it presents to you are the faithful expression of that which it has observed. The obstacles which it has met with are known to you; they are partly the cause of the delay which has occurred in presenting the report, although it has long been in possession of the materials. We are, however, far from excusing ourselves, or from complaining of this delay, since it gives to our observations a character of maturity and reserve which should lead you to confide in the facts which we have related, without the charge of prepossession and enthusiasm, with which you might have reproached us if we had only recently collected them. We add, that we are far from thinking that we have seen all that is to be seen, and we do not pretend to lead you to admit as an axiom, that there is nothing positive in magnetism beyond what we mention in our report. Far from placing limits to this part of physiological science, we entertain, on the contrary, the hope that a new field is opened to it, and warranting our own observations, presenting them with confidence to those who, after us, will occupy themselves with magnetism, we restrict ourselves to drawing the following conclusions, which are the necessary consequence of the facts, the totality of which constitutes our report.

#### “ CONCLUSIONS.

“ 1. Contact of the thumbs or the hands, frictions or certain gestures termed *passes* made at a little distance from the body, are the means employed to place in relation, or, in other words, to transmit the action from the magnetiser to the magnetised.

“ 2. The actions, which are external and visible, are not always necessary, since on many occasions the will, the fixed look of the magnetiser, have sufficed to produce magnetic phenomena, even when unknown to the magnetised.

“ 3. Magnetism has acted on persons of different sex and age.

“ 4. Magnetism does not generally act upon healthy persons, nor does it act upon all invalids.

“ 5. Whilst persons are being magnetised, insignificant and transient effects sometimes occur, which we do not ascribe to magnetism alone, but which may be accounted for without the intervention of a particular agent, viz. by hope or fear, expectation from a something new and unknown, the ennui resulting from the monotony of the gestures, the silence and repose observed in the experiments; lastly, by the imagination, which exercises so powerful an influence over some minds.

“ 6. A certain number of the effects observed have appeared to us to result from magnetism alone, and were not reproduced without it. These are well authenticated physiological and therapeutical phenomena.

“ 7. The real effects produced by magnetism are very varied; it agitates some, calms others, it usually accelerates the respiration and circulation, causes transient convulsive movements similar to electric shocks, a lassitude and torpor more or less profound, somnolency, and in a small number of instances, what the magnetisers term somnambulism.

“ 8. The existence of a special character proper to make known in all cases the reality of the state of somnambulism has not been proved.

“ 9. It may, however, be inferred with certainty that this state exists, when it gives rise to the development of new faculties which have been designated by the name of *clairvoyance*, intuition, internal prevision; or when it produces great changes in the

physiological state, as *insensibility, a sudden and considerable increase of strength*, and when this state cannot be referred to another cause.

“ 10. As among the effects ascribed to somnambulism there are some which may be simulated, so may somnambulism itself be simulated, and furnish charlatanism with means of deception.

“ 11. Sleep, produced more or less speedily, and established in a degree more or less profound, is a real, but not a constant, effect of magnetism.

“ 12. It has been demonstrated to us that sleep may be produced under circumstances in which the magnetised have not been able to perceive, and have been ignorant of, the means employed to occasion it.

“ 13. When a person has been already magnetised, it is not always necessary to have recourse to contact, or to the passes, in order to magnetise afresh. The look of the magnetiser, his will alone, has often the same influence. In this case one cannot only act upon the magnetised, but throw him completely into somnambulism, and awaken him from this state without his being aware of it, out of his sight, at a certain distance, and through closed doors.\*

“ 14. There usually take place changes more or less remarkable in the perceptions and the faculties of individuals in whom somnambulism is produced by magnetism.

“ 15. We have not seen any person fall into somnambulism on being magnetised for the first time. It has sometimes been not until the eighth or tenth

\* An instance was recently related to me by a gentleman of title, on whose account I place the strongest reliance. A lady stated her intention of magnetising the younger of her two daughters, who were seated together at a piano in an adjoining room, separated from the one in which she herself was by folding-doors. On proceeding to carry her intention into effect, magnetisation was produced after a brief period in the young lady, who was not aware of what was going on, her sister not being at all affected.



sitting that somnambulism has become manifest.

“ 16. We have constantly seen ordinary sleep, which is the repose of the organs of the senses, of the intellectual faculties, and voluntary movements, precede and terminate the state of somnambulism.

“ 17. When awakened, somnambulists declare that they do not recollect any of the circumstances of the state of somnambulism.

“ 18. We have seen two somnambulists distinguish with closed eyes the objects placed before them; they have designated, without touching them, the colour and name of cards; they have read words written, or lines from a book. This phenomenon has occurred even when the eyelids were kept closed by the fingers.

“ 19. We have met with two somnambulists with the faculty of foreseeing acts of the organism, more or less distinct, more or less complicated.

“ 20. We have only met with one somnambulist who could indicate the symptoms of the disease of three persons with whom she was placed in relation. We had, however, made researches on a considerable number.

“ 21. In order to determine with justness the relation of magnetism with therapeutics, the effects must have been observed on a great number of individuals, and experiments should have been made for a long period and daily on the same diseases. This not having been done, the commission must restrict itself to saying that it has seen too few cases to be able to pronounce an opinion on this point.

“ 22. Some of the patients magnetised have derived no advantage, others have experienced more or less marked benefit; viz. one patient, the relief of habitual pains; another, the return of strength; a third, a suspension of several months of epileptic attacks; and a fourth, the complete cure of serious and long-standing paralysis.

“ 23. Considered as an agent of physiological phenomena, or as a therapeutical means, magnetism ought to find a place within the sphere of medical knowledge, and consequently only medical practitioners ought to employ it, or to superintend its employment, as is practised in the countries of the north.

“ 24. The commission could not verify, because it had no opportunity, the other faculties which magnetism had stated to exist in somnambulists. But it has collected, and it communicates to the Académie, facts sufficiently important to induce it to think that the Académie ought to encourage researches on magnetism as a very curious branch of psychology and natural history.

“ Certainly we dare not flatter ourselves that we shall make you share entirely our conviction of the reality of the phenomena which we have observed, and which you have neither seen, nor followed, nor studied with, or in opposition to us. We do not, therefore, exact from you a blind belief in all which we have reported. We conceive that a great part of the facts are so extraordinary, that you cannot grant it to us: perhaps we ourselves should have refused you our belief, if, changing places, you had come to announce them before this tribunal to us, who, like you at present, had seen nothing, observed nothing, studied nothing, followed nothing of them.

“ We only require that you judge us as we should have judged you, that is to say, that you remain perfectly convinced that neither the love of the wonderful, nor the desire of celebrity, nor any interest whatever, has influenced us in our labours. We were animated by motives more elevated, more worthy of you—by the love of science, and by the wish to justify the hopes which the Académie had conceived of our zeal and devotedness.

“ (Signed) BOURDOIS DE LA MOTTE, President;  
FOUQUIER, GUENEAU DE MUSSY,  
GUERSENT ITARD, LEROUX, MARC,  
THILLAYE, HUSSON, Reporter.”

MM. Laennec, Double, and Magendie, did not sign, probably from not having followed the experiments throughout.

The reading of this report in the Académie gave rise, as may be supposed, to stormy discussions; the facts adduced being denied by some, ascribed to other causes than magnetism, or to trickery, by several others of the members, especially by M. Dubois (D'Amiens), who, in conjunction with Dr. Burdin, lately published a work on the subject,\* and whose opinions upon the report, which he terms rational conclusions I placed in juxtaposition with those of the commissioners in the former edition; but his remarks, though exhibiting great acuteness and penetration, and his exposure of some instances of deception, cannot now be considered as sufficiently valid to disprove the principal facts stated in the report; and the analogous ones which have been elicited in other places, especially within the last two years. The failure of the subsequent experiments of M. Berna, before a fresh commission of the Académie, which I shall relate, likewise tended to impugn some of the conclusions of the former commissioners, and to confirm the incredulity of the majority. Dr. Berna, who had been lecturing on animal magnetism, sent a proposition to the Académie, offering to convince the members, by their personal experience, of its power. The proposition was accepted, and a commission was appointed from the members of the Académie, said to be composed both of advocates and opponents of animal magnetism, as a guarantee of impartiality in judging of the experiments to be made. But notwithstanding the different opinions entertained by the commissioners respecting the theoretical value of magnetism, they unanimously agreed in the value of the facts presented to them on the present occasion, and all signed the report which they made to the Académie.

\* *Histoire Académique de Magnétisme Animal.* Paris, 1841.

The first meeting of the commissioners to witness the experiments, took place on the 3rd of March, 1837, at the house of M. Roux, their president, where M. Berna met them, and shortly after went away in order to bring a somnambulist who waited for him in the neighbourhood. In a few minutes he returned, introducing a young girl seventeen or eighteen years of age, of a rather delicate and nervous appearance, but whose manners were unembarrassed and resolved.

“The number of experiments for the evening,” says the report, “amounted to eight; viz. First, Somnambulisation. Secondly, Ascertaining the existence of insensibility to pricking and tickling. Thirdly, Restoration of the sensibility by the will of the magnetiser mentally expressed. Fourthly, Obedience to the order mentally expressed, to stop in the middle of a conversation; and fifthly, again to answer on the mental order of the magnetiser. Sixthly, Repetition of the same experiment, the magnetiser being separated from the somnambulist by a door. Seventhly, Awaking from somnambulism. Eightly, In obedience to the mental order signified during somnambulism, the persistance of insensibility when awakened, as also persistance of the faculty of losing or recovering sensibility, at the will of the magnetiser.

“The young girl was received by the commissioners with great kindness and affability; and, with a view to ascertain before magnetisation to what degree she was sensible to pricking in the ordinary state, her hand and neck were pricked with needles procured by M. Berna; to the inquiries of some of the commissioners, if she felt the pricking, she answered positively, that she felt nothing, nor did her face express any sign of pain. It must be remembered that she was perfectly awake, even to the acknowledgment of the magnetised, who had not begun any part of his process. This did not agree with the



proposition, as the insensibility was only to be manifested in the state of somnambulism, and subsequent to the mental injunction of the magnetiser; the commissioners were therefore somewhat surprised at this singular commencement. On further questioning, however, she admitted that she felt a little pain. After these preliminaries, M. Berna caused the somnambulist to sit near him, and appeared to contemplate her in silence, without making any of the movements termed passes. At the expiration of a minute or two, he announced that she was in somnambulism. Her eyes were then covered with a bandage, and after having again contemplated her, the magnetiser stated that she was struck with general insensibility.

“The proofs of insensibility are of two kinds: one kind rests upon the mere assertion of the individuals, upon which it is evident no reliance can be placed when there exists any motive for deceiving: the second kind are deduced from the absence of those movements or actions usually caused by painful impressions: but here must be considered both the degree of pain produced, and the firmness of the persons on whom the experiment is made. In the present case the amount of pain was not to exceed a certain point rigorously fixed by M. Berna.

“Some of the commissioners pricked the girl with needles: she did not complain of any pain, nor did her face (the upper half of which was partly covered by the bandage) show any indication of suffering. One of the commissioners, however, having pricked her under the chin more forcibly than the rest, she performed with vivacity the action of swallowing. M. Berna, who perceived it, complained of the needle having been introduced into the chin deeper than was allowed. He then informed the commissioners that he was about to paralyse, by the tacit intervention of his will, either the sensibility or the motion of any part of the somnambulist's body

that was required ; he, however, restricted the parts to be acted upon.—First, to the two legs ; secondly, to the two arms ; thirdly, an arm and a leg ; fourthly, one arm or one leg ; fifthly, to the neck, turning to the right or the left ; and sixthly, to the tongue, as far as motion is concerned ; and either the whole or a part of the body, as regarded sensation.

“ Here, according to the injunctions of the magnetiser, the only orders that could be given to the somnambulist were—‘ Raise the arm ’—‘ Raise the leg ’—‘ Turn the head to the right or to the left ’—or, ‘ Speak.’ Thus, if when one of the commissioners said, ‘ Raise the left arm,’ the arm were not raised, M. Berna wished it to be considered as proved that the arm was paralysed—that it was so paralysed of his tacit will, and that this was the result of animal magnetism. He also desired the commissioners, if they should not at first succeed, not to be discouraged, but to continue till they obtained the requisite effect, viz. paralysis of the part desired.

“ At a second sitting, having, as he stated, placed the young girl in a state of somnambulism, M. Bouillaud required M. Berna, in writing, to paralyse the motion of the somnambulist’s right arm only, and when it was done, to inform him, by closing his eyes. M. Berna, after a short period, made the sign agreed upon, which implied that his tacit will had been powerful enough to paralyse the right arm of the somnambulist. M. Bouillaud proceeded to verify the fact, and requested the girl to move such or such limbs. When he requested her to move the right leg, she answered that she could neither move the right leg nor the right arm. Thus, although, according to the arrangement previously agreed upon, one limb only was to be paralysed, it appeared that two limbs were deprived of motion. The experiment was therefore considered to have failed, as the commissioners were not so simple as to repeat the trials till they succeeded.

“In the next experiment on the same person, M. Berna proposed to the commissioners to repeat the series of experiments, viz., abolition or restitution of sensibility, either partial or total; privation or restitution of movements; the faculty of hearing or not hearing a person speaking, &c. After the girl was said to be in a state of somnambulism, M. Bouillaud requested M. Berna, by writing, to deprive the somnambulist of the power of hearing him, and to touch the shoulder of another commissioner, as a sign that he had done so. He then began to converse with the somnambulist, but before the magnetiser had made the sign agreed upon, she appeared not to hear him; but when the signal was given, she answered M. Bouillaud's questions, which was just the reverse of what ought to have happened. But the magnetisers had spoken to the commissioners about the wonderful facts of vision without the assistance of the eyes—of the famous transposition of the senses so much talked of in the annals of magnetism; they were therefore naturally desirous to witness facts of this nature, and on the next occasion repaired to the house of M. Berna, whom they found in company with a woman about thirty years of age. After their arrival he covered her eyes with a bandage, and then stated that she was in somnambulism, and began to converse with her. It was agreed, that in this sitting there were to be two kinds of facts by which magnetism was to be tested, viz., first, facts, the solution of which were to be proposed to the woman said to be in somnambulism, but known to M. Berna; and secondly, facts, of which the solution was also to be proposed to the subject of the experiment, but of which facts M. Berna should be ignorant. Thus, as an example of the first kind, M. Berna began by asking the woman how many persons were present. ‘Several,’ she replied, ‘at least five.’ This was a fact known to M. Berna, as well as to the commissioners, and also to the somnam-

bulist herself, as her eyes were not bandaged till after their arrival. One of the commissioners was then requested by the magnetiser to write one or more words on a card. (A pack of white cards and a pack of playing cards lay on a table in the room.) The commissioner wrote on one of the white cards the word *Pantagruel*, in letters perfectly distinct, and going behind the somnambulist, placed this card against her occiput: the magnetiser was seated in front of the somnambulist, and was ignorant of the word written; this was consequently a fact of the second kind; that is to say, decisive of itself. The somnambulist, interrogated by the magnetiser as to what was placed on the back of her head, answered with some hesitation, that it was something white, like a visiting card. So far there was nothing surprising. M. Berna had, in a loud voice, requested the commissioner to take a card and write something upon it; but she was further asked if she did not see anything upon the card, to which she resolutely replied. 'Yes, there is writing.'—'Is the writing large or small?'—'Pretty large,' she replied. 'What has been written?'—'Wait a moment, I do not distinguish well; there is first an M. Yes, it is a word beginning with an M.' Such were the first answers of the somnambulist. A plain white card was then passed to the commissioner unknown to the magnetiser; this was substituted for the card on which the word *Pantagruel* was written. The somnambulist persisted, notwithstanding, in saying that she saw a word beginning with an M. She subsequently added, that she saw two lines of writing, though she could not tell what they were.

"The reporter was taking notes close to the somnambulist. The point of the pen was distinctly heard on the paper: the somnambulist turned her head to that side: the magnetiser asked her if she saw that gentleman. 'Yes,' she said, 'he holds in his hand something white and long.' He then



ceased writing, and passed behind the somnambulist, holding the pen in his mouth. 'Do you see the gentleman behind?' inquired the magnetiser. 'Yes,' she replied, 'Do you see his mouth?' 'Not very well; he has in it something white and long.' The magnetiser on this glanced with satisfaction to the commissioners, and enjoined the reporter not to forget to note the circumstance. After some other experiments in writing on cards, at which the somnambulist was as much in fault as in the first instance, M. Berna, in a loud tone, requested a commissioner to take a playing card and place it to the occiput of the somnambulist. 'A court card?' inquired the commissioner. 'As you please,' replied M. Berna. The commissioner, however, instead of selecting a playing card, took a plain white one of the same size, unknown to M. Berna, and of course to the somnambulist. He then placed this card to her occiput. M. Berna, seated in front as before, interrogated her. She hesitated, and at last answered that she saw a card. On being further interrogated, she again hesitated, and then said that there was black and red on the card. After some further efforts to induce the somnambulist to be more explicit, the magnetiser, little satisfied with the result of the transposition of sight to the occiput, requested the commissioner to pass the card in front of the somnambulist, close to the bandage which covered her eyes, which was, in fact, a renunciation of the transposition of the senses, for *clairvoyance* through a bandage. The card was quickly passed, as desired, so that M. Berna seeing the white surface of the card, supposed that its back was turned towards himself, and the coloured parts towards the bandage of the somnambulist. On being again questioned, she said she now saw the card better, and then added, that she distinguished something like a figure. M. Berna continued to question her; the somnambulist appearing to make great efforts, de-

clared that she saw a knave. 'But which knave? there are four knaves.' She replied, 'There is black by the side of the knave.'—'Still there are two knaves that have black on their side.' She was again solicited by the magnetiser, and appeared to make great efforts; at last she hit upon it—'The knave of clubs.' M. Berna, to terminate the experiment, took the card out of the commissioner's hand, and perceived that it was perfectly white."\*

I need not relate any more cases from the report of the commissioners, as the results were similar to the above, but will give an abstract of the conclusions at which the commissioners arrived.

"First, It results from all the facts witnessed, that no proof has been afforded of the existence of a peculiar state, termed magnetic somnambulism, and there is only the magnetiser's assertions to trust to, that the individuals were in this state at each meeting.

"Secondly, The second experiment was to determine the insensibility of the person submitted to the experiment. It was not allowed, however, to try this by pinching, pulling, the contact of a body in a state of ignition, or of an elevated temperature, but merely by the pricking the skin with needles, introduced no deeper than half a line, which could only produce a very moderate degree of pain; and considering the face and eyes, where painful impressions are mostly shown, were covered, even perfect immobility could not be regarded as a proof of the abolition of sensibility.

"Thirdly, The magnetiser was to prove, that by the sole intervention of his will he had the power of restoring sensibility to the somnambulist; but as he could not prove experimentally that the young girl had ever been deprived of sensibility, it would

\* The circumstance of the confidence of M. Berna, that the experiments would succeed when conducted by another, tends to remove from him the suspicion of collusion, or preconcerted arrangement.

have been impossible for him to have proved its restoration. Besides, all the trials made with respect to this part of the experiment completely failed.

“Fourthly, The above remarks will also apply to the pretended abolition and restoration of the power of motion, not the slightest proof of which was afforded. When the girl assured the commissioners that she could not move her leg, it was no proof to them that this limb was magnetically paralysed, and even then her assertions were not in accordance with the pretensions of the magnetiser.

“Fifthly, Obedience to the will of the magnetiser was to be proved by the somnambulist ceasing to hold a conversation with a person indicated. Instead of this result being produced, quite the contrary effects were manifested; the somnambulist appeared not to hear before the magnetiser wished it, and heard and answered questions when he desired that she might not hear; so that according to the assertions of the somnambulist, the faculty of hearing or not hearing was completely in opposition to the will of the magnetiser. The commissioners, however, did not see in the circumstance an opposition any more than a submission to the will of the magnetiser, but only a natural and complete independence of it.

“Sixthly, The proving the transposition of the sense of sight failed entirely. The only things correctly stated by the somnambulist were what she might naturally infer from the circumstances; as, hearing the magnetiser request a person to take a card and write upon it, she professed to be able to see the card and writing, but was quite wrong when interrogated respecting the word written; and from the circumstance of her guessing that the commissioner, whom she knew had been writing and had ceased to write, held his pen in his mouth when she was asked if she saw his mouth, the commissioners could only conclude that the somnambulist was more

sharp than the preceding one, and was better able to draw probable conclusions.

“Seventhly, To prove *clairvoyance*. The circumstances which occurred carry with them their own inference, viz. that the faculty of distinguishing through a bandage, objects presented to the somnambulist, cannot be caused by the magnetiser. But here a serious reflection presents itself. Even in admitting for a moment the hypothesis, very convenient for the magnetisers, that under many circumstances the best somnambulists may lose their lucidity, and that, like the generality of mortals, they cannot see by the occiput, the stomach, or even through a bandage when under these circumstances;—even admitting all this, what must be thought with respect to this woman, who could distinguish a knave of clubs on a perfectly blank card—who in a medal of the Académie could see a gold watch with white face and black letters—and who, if she had been further pressed, would probably have mentioned the hour indicated on this watch.

“Lastly, As a general conclusion from all the experiments, the commissioners aver that M. Bernadotté deceived himself when he made sure of proving to the Académie, by conclusive facts, the truth of magnetism, and the elucidation by them of points to physiology and therapeutics. These facts are now known, and they are opposed to conclusions in favour of magnetism itself, and consequently they can have nothing in common, either with physiology or therapeutics.

“The commissioners will not attempt to decide whether they would have found anything more conclusive, in more numerous and varied cases furnished by other magnetisers: but one thing is certain, that if there are other magnetisers, they have not dared to come forward—they have not dared to put magnetism to the test of academical sanction or condemnation.”



This report produced an immediate protest from Dr. Berna, and a subsequent refutation, in which he accused the commissioners, who were either hostile or indifferent to animal magnetism, of a want of impartiality in their statement, of inaccuracies, and the omission of some circumstances which it was impossible for the somnambulist to have known otherwise than by magnetism, as the exact position of individual members of the commission, and their attitude, though these were varied. Dr. Husson, reporter to the former commission, likewise entered into an elaborate expression of his opinions upon the report; which he characterised as drawn up with evident partiality by the reporter, M. Dubois d'Amiens, who had avowed himself the uncompromising opponent of magnetism; and though the experiments had failed, (which he ascribed to M. Berna being a young magnetiser, and probably partially deceived by the somnambulists, and whom he blamed for having made his proposition to the Académie with too much confidence); he did not consider that they destroyed the value of the phenomena previously observed. He says, even supposing M. Berna to have been duped by the somnambulists,—“ But there is nothing extraordinary in this failure. We know that nothing is less absolute or more variable than magnetic effects; and it is this mobility, this inconstancy, which prevents many persons from studying it, and pursuing it. What are, we may ask, the facts in practical medicine, in therapeutics, in physiology which are always fixed and immutable? We reported, in 1831, three instances similar to those of M. Berna; and although, as in the present instance, they were entirely contrary to that which the three magnetisers had announced and predicted to us; we took care to abstain from depreciating the consideration to which every man convinced by experiments has a right,



even though other analogous experiments do not succeed."

In the course of the discussions on the subject in the Académie some instances of deception were brought forward, which at the time had passed current as proofs of magnetic power. M. Velpeau, in alluding to a young man who had been able to predict the periods of his epileptic attacks, and who was also said to be able to read with his eyes bandaged, says, "I thought of looking under the bandage, which was loosely applied, and my surprise ceased. The performer of these miracles was a young law student, who had quarrelled with his friends, had no means of existence, and who entered an hospital under the pretext that he was paralytic, which was an invention. I was in the secret, and did not betray him, as it would have lost him; although the surgeon of the hospital thought it really a paralysis, prescribed accordingly, and after uselessly trying other remedies, spoke of applying the moxa:\* from that period the remedies which had been hitherto inactive performed wonders. From this hospital he went to that of La Charité, to subject himself to the experiments of magnetism."

The following case of *clairvoyance* was a great deal talked about at the time. "Petronilla Leclerc, at twenty-six, admitted into the hospital of La Charité, in 1830, under the care of Dr. Fouquier, was afflicted with a cerebro-spasmodic epileptiform complaint. M. Sebire, who had the care of her, magnetised her several times, and some remarkable phenomena were manifested. In the first sitting the somnambulist gave several marks of lucidity: some objects were presented to her, as a bottle filled with vinegar, sugar, bread, &c., which she recognised perfectly well without seeing them, as she had a

\* Moxa is a cylinder of ignited cotton, or other substance, applied to the skin, and, by the strong action of the heat, produces an ulcer.

bandage over her eyes. When answering the questions put to her, she turned to the opposite side and plunged her face in the pillow; without being asked, she said to the person who was holding her hand, 'You have got a head-ache,' which was true; but to try her, M. Sebire answered, that she was mistaken. 'That is singular,' replied she; 'I touched some person who had a head-ache, for I felt it.' She distinguished several persons who were present by some peculiarities in their dress.

"The following was one of the most remarkable circumstances that occurred. The magnetiser had retired, after promising to return at half-past five o'clock, in order to awaken her. He arrived before the appointed time. The somnambulist observed, that it was not yet half-past five, to which he answered, that he had just received a letter, which obliged him to return sooner. 'O yes,' she immediately replied; 'it is that letter which you have in your pocket-book, between a blue card and a yellow one.' The fact was strictly true. M. Sebire, without saying anything, placed a watch behind her occiput, and asked her what it was o'clock by the watch? She answered, 'Six minutes past four,' and she was right."

All this sounds very marvellous, and no doubt appeared conclusive to the bystanders, of the truth and miraculous powers of magnetism; but unfortunately for the magnetisers Petronilla died of phthisis, in the Saltpêtrière, in 1833, and repeatedly declared in the latter part of her life, to the *internes* of the hospital, that she had never experienced the least degree of somnambulism, and that she used to laugh in her sleeve at Georget and the others who were present at the experiments. She affirmed that she had passed with Brouillard (another somnambulist) more than one delicious evening in recounting the *mystifications* of the day, and in preparing those for the morrow. These persons also allowed themselves

to be pricked and pinched without evincing pain. I am acquainted with the gentlemen to whom these avowals were made, and one of them assured me of the correctness of the above statement.\*

I will briefly allude to the case of the daughter of Dr. Pigeaire, of Montpellier, aged eleven years, in whom the phenomena of *clairvoyance* was exhibited before numerous spectators. "After being magnetised, she read," says her father, "with the greatest facility, though her eyes were closed or covered with a bandage, written or printed words, not only when she applied her fingers to the paper, but also when a piece of glass was interposed between the book and her fingers." M. Kuhnholz, librarian of the faculty of Montpellier, wished to see her read. "We placed a bandage over her eyes, after filling up the hollow on either side of the nose with cotton; a book which M. Kuhnholz brought was placed before her, and she read with facility, always with the assistance of the fingers." In the next sitting a mask was employed instead of the handkerchief, after the apertures for the eyes had been closed with black velvet, folded four times; and a fresh book brought by M. Kuhnholz was opened, in which she also read. M. Pougosky went out, brought in another book, and asked the little girl if she could read in it when closed. After having rubbed the cover of the book with her fingers, she said, "I cannot read, I can only perceive that it is in verse." The cover was opened, and the blank page before the title was seen; the little girl rubbed her fingers over this page, and read the name of the work, "*Fables de la Fontaine*."

Among the numerous persons who witnessed the

\* This case and the remarks are reprinted as in the preceding edition; but it is not improbable that this young woman did experience some of the phenomena of somnambulism, but afterwards denied them, for motives known to herself.—*Note to Third Edition.*

phenomena were MM. Lallemand, Amador, Eustace, Delmas, and others, well known in the town; and M. Pigeaire invited two physicians from Paris, whom he selected from the most incredulous, to come to Montpellier, and if the somnambulist did not read with her eyes closed and covered with a double black handkerchief, he engaged to defray their expenses; or he would go to Paris, and if the experiment succeeded, he was to be reimbursed the expenses of his journey.

M. Burdin had proposed in the Académie de Médecine, a prize of three thousand francs to be given to the individual who was able to read without the use of his eyes and without light, either in the state of somnambulism or awake. M. Pigeaire with his daughter consequently went to Paris. Some preparatory experiments were made in private, which were attended by several learned and distinguished personages, most of whom attested in writing that Mademoiselle Pigeaire read while her eyes were covered with a bandage of black velvet, which was bound down to the skin of the face at the lower part, so that light could by no possibility arrive at the eyes. Among the persons who certified the fact, were MM. Orfila, Ribes, Reveillé, Parisé, and other well-known physicians.

It appears, however, that the trial for the prize did not take place; for though the condition of the absence of light was dispensed with, other impediments were thrown in the way, such as the insisting upon the somnambulist wearing a particular apparatus, which was to incase the head in a sort of mask made on purpose, instead of the bandages or velvet covering with which the former experiments were made. M. Pigeaire consequently declined to allow his daughter to make the attempt.

The experiments made by M. Petetin, an eminent physician, and president of the Medical Society of Lyons, who for a long time disbelieved in magnetism, tended to prove the transference of other senses



than the sight to particular parts of the body. These experiments originated from an accidental circumstance. A cataleptic patient was under his care, who appeared to be for a length of time in a state of complete insensibility; no stimulus had any effect upon her; her eyes and ears appeared to have lost altogether the power of receiving their appropriate impressions. M. Petetin, however, was greatly astonished on accidentally discovering that she heard him perfectly when he spoke near her stomach. Having satisfied himself of the fact by repeated trials, he afterwards perceived that it was the same with respect to the senses of sight and smell. The cataleptic patient read with the stomach, even through an intervening opaque substance: he also found that it was not necessary to speak directly upon the stomach in order to be heard, but that it sufficed to speak at one end of a conductor, of which the other end rested upon the stomach. Some years afterwards he met with other cataleptic and somnambulic individuals who presented the same phenomena as the former, with the difference, however, that the faculties were found to be transferred, not only to the epigastrium but also to the extremities of the fingers and toes.

“The facts,” says the author of this work, “for which I have extracted this case,\* are of a nature so extraordinary and surprising, that it is only from their being attested by several capable and intelligent observers, and upon the most clear, incontrovertible, and unsuspecting evidence of credible individuals, well qualified for conducting the investigation, that they can be expected to be believed.”

M. Petetin secretly placed pieces of cake, biscuit, tarts, &c. upon the stomach of one of the patients, which was immediately followed by the taste of the particular substance in the mouth.† When the sub-

\* Isis. Revelata.

† A case is also recorded in the Phreno-Magnet, in which it was accidentally discovered that the patient could distinguish in succession



stance was enveloped in silk, no sensation was felt, but the taste was immediately perceived on the covering being removed. One of the patients enumerated the most remarkable articles in the pockets of several individuals. These and other equally wonderful phenomena were witnessed by a large proportion of the physicians and learned men of Lyons and its vicinity.

A case is also stated by M. Delpit in the *Bibliothèque Médicale* —“The patient read very distinctly when her eyes were completely closed to the light, by conducting her fingers over the letters, whether in daylight or in the most profound darkness, printed characters, on opening the first book that came to hand, and also written characters. Was it the sense of touch, says the doctor, which supplied that of sight? I know not, but I affirm she read quite fluently by conducting her fingers along the letters.” A very curious case which occurred in the hospital *Delle Vita*, at Bologna, is related in the 23rd vol. of the *Lancet*, and in the *Gazette Médicale*, Nov. 1832, and another bearing upon the same subject in the *American Journal of Medical Science*, August 1834.

Professor Andral stated in his lectures, a few years ago, that ecstasy and somnambulism may either be spontaneous, or may be produced in one individual in consequence of an influence exercised upon him by another; and after quoting the case of M. Filassier, said, “We are apt to set out with the idea that a thing is impossible; this is wrong, it is irrational; it is unwise, it leads us to reject proofs of these facts, because these proofs do not agree with our previous notions. We must not be so proud of our own powers as to fancy that analogy, that induction are omnipotent in the discrimination of truth; neither must we measure possibility by the standard of our own restricted notions. How many

the taste of ground coffee, cayenne pepper, salt, sugar, &c. when these substances were moistened and applied to the tips of her fingers.

things are there which we now readily admit, but which were denied fifty years ago? How many things do we not see done every day which only lately were deemed impracticable?" M. Andral also quotes the following case on the authority of M. Rostan—M. Ferrus was present at the experiment. "A watch was held behind the individual's head; I see, said he, something that shines. What is it?—A watch. He was asked the hour, and replied correctly. Two different watches were tried; he was equally precise. The watches were then taken out of the room and the position of the hands altered; nevertheless, he still told the hours and minutes expressed on the dials. Gentlemen," continued the professor, "this is a remarkable fact, I wish I had seen it. (A laugh.) Had I seen it, I certainly would have believed it, but as it is, the experiment requires to be repeated."

I will terminate this part of the subject by a reference to two or three cases of more recent occurrence. In the newspaper "*France Méridionale*," of the 1st Nov. 1839, is the following:—

"We were yesterday present at a sitting of experiments on magnetism, the result of which have entirely dissipated whatever doubts previously remained on our minds, on the so-much-contested fact of vision without the assistance of the eyes. M. Ricard gave in this *séance* the most evident proofs of his prodigious moral power, and of the admirable lucidity of his somnambulist Calixte, of whom we will merely mention one fact. After having been magnetised, he played a game of piquet and *ecarté* with astonishing precision and rapidity; his eyes were perfectly closed, cotton filled up the orbits, and a bandage was bound over them. The cards were brought by a physician who believed but little in magnetism, and were examined by several persons, among whom was a conjurer, who prided himself upon knowing all the tricks practised by persons in his profession."

At another time, Calixte, after having been magnetised, a card was placed on the region of the heart, and he named without hesitation the ace of clubs. His eyes were padded over and bandaged with a thick handkerchief, he then played with the most sceptical several games at *ecarté*, with new cards, without making the least mistake. If his adversary named, in playing, a different card from that which he played, the somnambulist was annoyed, complained of his bad faith, and added—"Why do you try to deceive me? I can see them better than yourself, and to prove it, you hold such and such cards in your hand."

One of the players, suspicious in the extreme, having raised the bandage in order to convince himself that no ray of light could arrive at the organ of sight, was scolded by the somnambulist in no measured terms, and owed his conversion to magnetism to the following experiment:—

"So you think I can see with my eyes," said the somnambulist to him; "are you then so blind as not to comprehend that my eyelids being pressed upon by padding and a bandage, which annoy me terribly, it is impossible for me to perceive anything in the ordinary way? Well then, go into the next room, stick against the wall with a wafer, any card you please, and you will soon know whether I shall be able to tell it or not." This was accordingly done, and Calixte named, without much hesitation, the king of diamonds, which was correct.

Twelve pieces of ribbon of different colours and shades were given to the patient, who distinguished them in the most exact manner.

A stop-watch, of which the hands had been purposely deranged, was applied to the region of the heart, and he told the hour which was indicated.\*

The same individual was magnetised lately in Paris, by Mr. Macpherson Adams, who has pub-

\* Ricard, *Traité de Magnétisme Animal*.

lished an account of the *séances* in the Medical Times, October 15, 1842, and similar phenomena were elicited, the somnambulist playing *ecarté* and naming the cards in his adversary's hand. "While playing he seemed much annoyed by the brass hinge of the card-table, and for a long time we could not tell the meaning of his fretful motions, till he complained of the brass, when we turned the table for him." He also selected a coin which had been touched by his magnetiser, from several others. "I then put him in contact with the captain, and asked him about his health, if he had lost any limb or the use of any organ? He said he was then suffering no pain, that he had lost no limb. I asked if he was deaf or blind? The reply was, he sees better with one eye than the other, and on being desired to name which eye was the best, he named the left, which was quite correct, for the other eye was quite gone, though unless looked into not to be easily perceived. Another experiment we made was to see if he could tell us the name of four cards with their faces on the table; he said he could not, he thought, tell us the colour, but he would count the points for us, which he did correctly, only once he counted seven instead of ten."

After some further experiments of reading in books and words written in small characters, which the somnambulist performed correctly, the narrator says, "I then placed M. Jump *en rapport* with him, and begged him to tell his complaint. He touched the end of his fingers, and then carried his own to his nostrils and forehead. He had no particular illness or pain, but that he had a '*nerveuse maladie partout.*' This was strictly true; he had just suffered a heavy loss, and I had asked him to come to me to amuse him. Calixte could not bear the brass buttons on the jacket of the little page with whom I placed him *en rapport*, but made him take off his coat before he would touch him. We also tried the



community of taste. I ate a piece of sweet biscuit, which he said was 'gateau.' I put a ginger lozenge in my mouth, which he said he did not know the flavour of, but said it was some sort of preserved fruit, but that he was not acquainted with those tastes. I then took some brandy from some brandy cherries with sugar in it, and he said it was some sort of liquor, brandy, or rum, or something of that sort."

On perusing this case, as the narrator courted investigation, I wrote to a friend in Paris, to be present at some of the experiments, who replied: "In reference to Mr. Macpherson Adams, before receiving your letter, I had attended one or two of his magnetic *séances*, and witnessed some experiments that puzzled me not a little. In fact, I went to scoff, and remained to pray (in further enlightenment.) His man cannot read sealed letters yet, although he is trying hard. Calixte played *ecarté* with me, told the cards in my hand with his eyes bandaged, &c. I was not a little annoyed at being beaten by a blind man."

The same gentleman wrote two words (*c'est incroyable*) at a distance from the somnambulist, who recognised them on the paper being brought to him. I shall not repeat the still more surprising histories related by Mr. Adams and others, of Calixte and another somnambulist, Mademoiselle Virginie, who were able to describe the apartments and friends of individuals placed *en rapport* with them, and refer those curious of the details to the medical periodical in which they are recorded; but will briefly allude to some of the cases of insensibility of patients after having been magnetised, to operations which were performed without their evincing pain.

It would appear from a recent work that the Chinese barbers magnetise, for the purpose of



rendering the operation of shaving less disagreeable, and perhaps in some other instances where the sensibility is required to be blunted. "I observed," says the author, "that the grearer part of the patients slept while they were being shaved, and could not account for this singularity. But one morning I observed a man seat himself on a stool a little apart from the rest; I began my task of sketching, when the barber, instead of commencing his operations, placed himself before his customer, and first of all took hold of his hands, then passed his hands several times over the shoulders and before the face of the sitter, who shortly fell into a state of quiet drowsiness, if he did not actually go to sleep. He then moved his customer's head about in every direction he pleased, to facilitate the operation of shaving. When he had finished he shook the sleeper gently and awoke him. I frequently saw the same thing practised afterwards."\*

One of the most complete cases of insensibility to an operation, which has been repeatedly adduced in proof of the magnetic influence, is that of the lady, whose breast M. Cloquet amputated, while she was in magnetic somnambulism. To an inquiry during the operation, as to whether she felt pain, she answered in the negative, and only complained of being tickled when the sponge was applied to the bleeding surface. Another case of diminished sensibility during an operation, was stated before the Académie de Médecine. M. Oudet, a dentist, and member of the Académie, was called upon by a magnetiser to accompany him to the house of a lady, said to be in somnambulism. On arriving, the magnetiser pricked the lady several times, and held her finger in the flame of a taper for a few seconds, to ascertain whether her insensibility was obtused, after which M. Oudet took out his instrument and

\* Borget, *La Chine et les Chinois*. Paris, 1842.

extracted a large molar tooth from the patient, who at the moment drew back her head, and uttered a slight cry.

A case was also related a few weeks ago in the *Medical Times* from the *Jamaica Dispatch*, of a large excrescence, which was removed from the eyelid and brow of a lady while in mesmeric somnambulism; the operation was performed in the presence of several physicians and other persons, without the patient exhibiting the least sign of pain; she had long desired the operation to be performed, but had not possessed fortitude sufficient to submit to it. She was in utter ignorance of the intention of the surgeon to remove it, and knew nothing about it till she was informed after all was over and the wound dressed.

It is true that insensibility to this extent is sometimes met with in various states of the nervous system; as hysteria, ecstasy, mania, epilepsy, &c.; and that insensibility to pain, and to other external impressions on the senses, (as the persons not hearing loud noises, &c.) is not unfrequently seen even in reverie, abstraction, emotions of the mind,\* or when the attention is strongly pre-occupied. Cabanis says, with reference to this subject—"We know with certainty that the attention directly modifies the local condition of organs, as without it the most serious lesions frequently occasion neither the pain nor the inflammation proper to them; and that, on the other hand, minute observation of the most transient impressions may give them an important character, or may even sometimes occasion actual impressions without any real external cause."† Everybody must have felt the truth of this in their own persons, but it is not generally remarked, that even when the

\* "When the mind's free

The body's delicate. The tempest in my mind  
Doth from my senses take all feeling else,  
Save what beats there."—KING LEAR.

† Rapport du Physique et du Moral de l'Homme.

attention is not pre-occupied, most parts of the body will bear to be pinched without occasioning pain ; hence mere pinching without pain is no criterion of a diminution of sensibility. It likewise occasionally happens after an injury to the head, while the patient lies in a state of coma, that he is able to answer questions with more or less distinctness, but is insensible on the scalp being cut, or when the operation of trepanning is performed. Pinel mentions, in his *Nosographie Philosophique*, the case of a priest who, in a fit of mental abstraction, was insensible to the pain of burning ; and it is very likely that the degree of enthusiasm with which martyrs at the stake have been inspired, has had great influence in preventing the feeling of pain, to anything like the extent in which it would be felt under other circumstances. Mr. Wardrop extirpated a tumour from the head of a young girl, while she was in a state of syncope from the abstraction of blood. She was carried to her bed, and would not believe the operation had been performed, until a looking-glass was brought to enable her to verify the fact. Many analogous instances might be adduced, and some persons, even when retaining full consciousness, have had sufficient fortitude to repress all signs of pain during the performance of serious operations ; but these circumstances do not lessen the value of the facts of insensibility artificially produced by magnetising, or their future bearing upon practice. In the operations which have been recorded, it does not appear that any bad effects ensued.

With respect to the amputation of the leg which was recently performed without the consciousness of the patient, or without any signs of pain, while he was under the influence of magnetism, the reading of which case before the Medico-Chirurgical Society excited so great a degree of attention and discussion ; it will not occasion so much surprise after the perusal of the preceding instances,

that an operation could be so performed; (as in amputating a limb, the most painful part of the operation is the incision through the skin,) and as the case was reputably attested, and the parties courted publicity by bringing it before the society, I cannot see upon what valid plea some of the members sought to induce the society to take no farther cognizance of the matter, and stated that the paper ought not to have been allowed to be read; for even though it might not be advisable to institute further experiments with the view of trying how far a similar proceeding might be applicable in other instances, still in my opinion, it does not become bodies which have for their avowed object the advancement of science, to discourage inquiry into the important facts presented to them, by which means their utility might either be disproved or confirmed; for as professor Orfila, Dean of the Parisian Faculty of Medicine, has remarked, "If their exists trickery and quackery in animal magnetism, its adversaries are too hasty in refusing to admit all that has been asserted in regard to its effects. The testimony of enlightened physicians should be considered as proofs. If the magnetic phenomena appear extraordinary, the phenomena of electricity appeared equally marvellous at its origin. Whether magnetism be good or evil, it is clearly a therapeutic agent, and it behoves both the honour and the dignity of the Academie to examine it."

How much soever many persons may be inclined to disbelieve the more extraordinary phenomena which have been recorded, few who are impartial in their inquiries would at the present day refuse to admit, that at all events a sedative influence and diminished sensibility, and other effects not met with under ordinary circumstances, are produced by magnetism, or a peculiar action of one individual upon another; and this appears also to be the case as regards animals; as we learn from the experiments



made by Dr. Wilson, physician to the Middlesex Hospital, in the Zoological Gardens, that the elephants and other animals were variously affected by his magnetisation, and even fish became so passive under its influence as to allow themselves to be touched and taken in the hand.\* Many years ago Cuvier likewise said on this subject in his *Anatomie Comparée*, "We must confess that it is very difficult, in the experiments which have for their object to determine the action which the nervous system of two different individuals can exercise one upon the other, to distinguish the effects of the imagination of the individual upon whom the experiment is tried, from the physical result produced by the person who acts upon him. The effects, however, of the agency upon individuals whom the operation itself has deprived of consciousness, and those which animals present, do not permit us to doubt that the proximity of two animated bodies in certain positions, combined with certain movements, have a real effect, independently of all participation of the fancy. It appears also clearly, that these effects arise from a communication which is established between their nervous systems."†

With reference to the exhibition of M. Lafontaine

\* Experiments of Animal Magnetism on the brute creation. London, 1840.

† Does not the power which certain individuals possess in quieting ferocious animals depend upon magnetism?

"Lindenerantz informs us, that the Laplanders can instantly disarm the most furious dog, and oblige it to fly from them with every expression of terror. The strange faculty possessed by an Irishman, hence called the *Whisperer*, of taming unmanageable horses, is well known. Several horsebreakers have appeared at various periods possessed of the same art, and they would make the wildest horse follow them as tamely as a dog, and lie down at their bidding."—*Curiosities of Medical Experience*.

Dr. Elliotson stated at a late meeting of the Phrenological Society, that the Duke of Marlborough had informed him, that while at the Marquis of Ely's seat in Ireland, and strolling out in the morning, he came upon a very ferocious dog, chained in a farm-yard. His Grace durst not approach, but standing at a respectable distance mesmerised him, and going up actually embraced the sleeping brute. The dog remained in sleep thirty minutes. Mr. Borrow relates, in his recent work "The Bible in Spain," that he prevented in an analogous manner the attack of an immense dog which flew at him.



in London, the year before last, in which the individual presented the more ordinary phenomena of unconsciousness to pricking the skin, to a phial of ammonia held to the nose, to the discharge of a pistol close to his ear, together with those of cataleptic rigidity of the body, and complete insensibility to the electro-magnetic current from a powerful machine, and to the action of a voltaic battery, the "Times" observed, "But as we can only judge from effects, and allowing that mesmerism works only through the medium of the imagination, still are not the principles which govern so tremendous an agency worthy of being inquired into; any objections urged, either from reason, from analogy, or from experience, can scarcely be entertained. At first sight, who would suppose that the combination of certain plates of metal immersed in diluted acid, would produce the extraordinary effects which we see daily demonstrated, either by the electro-galvanic battery, or the voltaic pile, or that the union and combination of two gases should produce so great a heat as to consume iron, and reduce the diamond to its primitive elements? or that Hale's hydraulic machine should overcome the laws of gravitation, and raise water in spite of its physical properties, simply by rapidity of motion? or that the violet ray of the prism should magnetise iron? Yet these are facts no one ventures to question, because they are daily demonstrated. Or shall we make any allusion to the daguerrotype, the electrotpe, or the wonderful powers of steam, with its strange powers of electricity? Why, therefore, without inquiry, should we refuse to an individual the credit of possessing latent powers which are not common to all our race? All fish have not the property of the gymnotus, yet who doubts the power of the eel in the Adelaide Gallery to produce electrical phenomena?\*" Or does any one question that extraordinary faculty, which that in-

\* A physician, Dr. Pons, though incredulous as regards mesmerism was performing some passes on a somnambulist of M. Ricards, when,

dividual pensioned at the Mauritius by the British government, possesses of seeing vessels some hundred miles at sea? or the fact of the Brahmin who could sit on air; or of another Indian, who could bury himself for a month, as witnessed by Lieutenant Boileau, and then resuscitate himself? It would be an endless task to enumerate the frequent divergence from the ordinary laws of the human economy in persons of peculiar idiosyncrasies, but we shall merely notice in passing, the fact of Chabert swallowing eleven grains of phosphorus, and we forget how many of arsenic, with impunity,—a circumstance which corroborates the statement of the Roman historian, that Mithridates was insensible to poison, while it brings to mind the anecdote of the ancient dame who had lived so long on poison, that none could approach her without destruction.

“Now we ask, is there anything more wonderful in magnetism than in the facts we have enumerated? We think not. But we are not insisting on the truth of the doctrines of Mesmer; all we contend

on applying two fingers to the epigastrium of the patient, he felt a sensation very analogous to an electric shock; and did not require further evidence to convince him of the power of this agent.

\* When deprived of one sense, and in certain states of the system, the faculties are often surprisingly developed. In the Medical Essays and Observations, the case is related of a young lady who is blind, but who knew her friends by the touch; for where any of them took her by the hand, she would call them by their right names. A deaf, dumb, and blind girl, in the asylum at Hartpool, still recognizes the various inmates of the house by touch and smell, and can distinguish a silver spoon from 120 of baser metal. Casper Hauser could read after sunset, the numbers of a house at the distance of 180 paces, which in daylight he could not distinguish.—*Laycock on Nervous Diseases*. I have also adduced similar instances in my work on Nervous Disorders.

Dr. Millingen says in his work, “Professor Upham, of the United States, mentions a blind girl who could select her own articles out of a basket of linen brought in by the laundress. Dr. Moyse, the well-known blind philosopher, could distinguish a black dress on his friends by the smell.” The distance which a dog tracks his master is scarcely credible, and it is strange that the ancients attributed a similar faculty to the goose. Olaus Borrich informs us, that the guides between Smyrna, Aleppo, and Babylon, when travelling the Desert, ascertain distances by the smell of the sand.

for is an impartial inquiry into their merits. The time has arrived when no pretensions to science, however apparently wild and visionary, can be treated with contempt.”—July 24, 1841.

As regards the higher order of phenomena which have been witnessed during magnetic somnambulism, there is great analogy between them and what takes place in ordinary somnambulism, though the former necessarily excite a greater degree of wonder from being performed at the (mental) instigation of the magnetiser. In natural, as in artificial somnambulism, the individuals, when awakened, have no recollection of what takes place while they were in this state, but not unfrequently, when again in somnambulism, remember what took place in the preceding attack: they likewise, when walking, avoid the objects in their way, even in darkness or when the eyes are closed; and in those cases where the eyes are open, vision is most probably not performed by them, the stare being fixed and vacant.\* “There is no doubt,” says Dr. Millingen, “but that in somnambulists the intellectual functions are not only active, but frequently more developed than when the individual is awake. Persons in this state have been known to write and correct verses, and solve difficult problems, which they could not have done at other times. In these actions and locomotions, they are more cautious and frequently more dexterous than when awake. A singular phenomenon in some cases of this affection, is that of walking about without groping, whether the eyes are closed or open. Dr. Dyce, of Aberdeen, describes the case of a girl, in which this affection began with fits of somnolency, which came upon her suddenly during the day, and from which she could at first be roused by shaking, or by being suddenly taken out into the

\* Shakspeare alludes to this state in Lady Macbeth :

*Gentlewoman.*—“ Her eyes you see are open.”

*Doctor.*—“ Ay ! but their sense is shut.”

open air ; during these attacks she was in the habit of talking of things that seemed to pass before her like a dream, and was not at the time sensible of anything that was said to her. On one occasion, she repeated the entire baptismal service of the Church of England, and concluded with an extemporary prayer. In her subsequent paroxysms, she began to understand what was said to her, and to answer with a considerable degree of consistency, though these replies were in a certain measure influenced by her hallucination. She also became capable of following her usual employment during the paroxysm. At one time she would lay out the table for breakfast, and repeatedly dress herself and the children, her eyes *remaining shut the whole of the time*. The remarkable circumstance was now discovered, that during the paroxysm she had a distinct recollection of what had taken place in former attacks, though she had not the slightest recollection of it during the intervals. She was taken to church during the paroxysm, and attended the service with apparent devotion, and at one time was so affected by the sermon, that she actually shed tears ; yet in the interval she had no recollection whatever of the circumstance, but in the following paroxysm she gave a most distinct account of it, and actually repeated the passage of the sermon that had so much affected her. This sort of somnambulism relating distinctly to two periods, has been called, perhaps erroneously, a *state of double consciousness*. During the attack, her eyelids were generally half shut, and frequently resembled those of a person labouring under amaurosis, the pupil dilated and insensible ; at one time, Dr. Dyce affirms, she read distinctly a portion of a book presented to her.”\*

The following case is given in Mr. Colquhoun's work already referred to, on the authority of the Aulic Counsellor and Professor Feder, of Gottingen. “A student,

\* Curiosities of Medical Experience.



during a severe nervous complaint, experienced several attacks of somnambulism. Upon these occasions he would go from his bed-room to his parlour and back, open and shut the doors, and take out of the closets what he wanted, pieces of music, pen, ink, paper, &c., and *all this with his eyes shut*. From among his music he picked out a march from the Medea, laid the sheet in a proper situation before him, and having found the appropriate key, he played the whole piece with his usual skill upon the harpsicord. In the same manner he also played one of Bach's sonatas, and gave the most expressive passages with surprising effect. One of the persons present turned the notes upside down. This he immediately perceived, and when he again began to play, he replaced the sheet in its proper situation. While playing, he remarked a string out of tune, upon which he stopped, put it in order, and then proceeded. He wrote a letter to his brother, and what he wrote was not only perfectly rational, but straight and legible. While Professor Feder was on a visit to him one afternoon, he observed that it was snowing, which was really the case. On the same day he remarked, notwithstanding his eyes were closed, that the landlord of the opposite house was standing at the window, which was true, and the hats were hanging in the window of another room of the same house, which was also correct."

Another case from the Transactions of the Medical Society of Breslaw, is cited in the same work:—"A ropemaker, aged 23 years, was frequently overtaken by sleep even by daylight, and in the midst of his usual occupations, whether sitting, standing, or walking. His eyes were firmly closed, and he lost the use of all his external senses. While in this state he sometimes recommended doing all that he had been engaged in during the previous part of the day, from his morning devotions up to the commencement of the paroxysm. At other times he



would continue the work in which he happened to be engaged at the time, and finished his business with as great care and success as when awake. When the fit overtook him in travelling, he did not stand still, but proceeded on his journey with the same facility, and almost faster than when awake, without missing the road or stumbling over anything. In this manner he repeatedly went from Naumberg to Weimar. Upon one of these occasions he came into a narrow lane across which there lay some timber. He passed over it regularly as if awake, without injury. With equal care and dexterity he avoided the horses and carriages which came in his way. At another time he was overtaken by sleep a short while before setting out for Weimar on horseback; he rode through the river Ilma, allowed his horse to drink, and drew up his legs to prevent them getting wet; he then passed through several streets, crossed the market-place, which was then full of people, booths, and carts, and arrived in safety at the house where his business lay. During the continuance of the paroxysm he was quite insensible; though pricked, pinched, or struck, he felt nothing. *He could not see when his eyes were forced open; he could not smell even the most volatile spirit, nor could he hear the report of a pistol when fired close beside him.* Here, then, is no foundation for the hypothesis of one sense supplying the place of another, because *all* the external senses were ascertained to be completely dormant. The case, it is conceived, can only be accounted for by assuming, as warranted by the facts, a transference of the faculties, and that the internal sense, the soul, manifested its energies through other than the usual organs."

"A case is related by Ritter, in Moritz's Psychological Magazine, of a boy ten years of age, who became subject to fits of drowsiness, and frequently fell asleep suddenly even in the daytime, whether sitting or standing. In this state he would converse

with persons present; and although his eyes were to all appearance completely closed, he was able to see and discriminate all objects presented to him. When awakened, he recollected nothing of what had occurred during his sleep, but would talk of other matters. On his again falling asleep, the thread of discourse could be taken up where it had been previously interrupted, and continued. When he again awoke, he remembered nothing of the conversation that had occurred during his sleep, but recollected what had been last said to him when awake, and thus, says the reporter, it appears as if he had two souls, one for the state of sleep, and the other for the period when he was awake."

"A somewhat similar case is given in the *Medical Repository of America* for January 1816. The patient was an accomplished young lady, who in a state of somnambulism lost all recollection of her previous acquirements, and like a child was obliged to commence her education anew. When restored to her natural state, she again became possessed of her former knowledge, but remembered nothing of what occurred in the interval. During four years these two states alternated periodically, but she herself possessed as little consciousness of her double character as two distinct persons of each other."\*

Several other instances of clairvoyance during natural somnambulism are recorded, as also of the prediction of probable events, and the occurrence of circumstances happening at a distance. The following instance is stated in a letter from Captain Godinet to M. Ricard, and is published in his work. "In 1831, my sister, aged 18, was attacked with an hysterical disease. In the course of the attack, and after nervous spasms, she fell into a state of natural somnambulism, and indicated, her eyes being bandaged, and without a candle, the colour of the clothes of each of the persons near her, and said

\* *Isis. Revelata.*

whether she knew them or not. One evening, the attack having lasted very late in the night, and her doctor considering that his remaining with her was unnecessary, had gone away. The patient said, 'You think the doctor is gone to bed and is sleeping, but you are wrong; he is consulting his books respecting my case, and I shall not be better until the remedy which he fears to administer to me is applied.' The fact having been verified, was found to be perfectly correct."—Bordeaux, 20th Sept. 1837.

I have already alluded to the somnambulists at Paris, who are stated upon credible authority to have described the apartment, and the appearance and peculiarities of distant friends of the persons with whom they were placed in *rappor*t.\* The following instances, taken from Mr. Colquhoun's work, have likewise reference to this part of the subject.

"Dr. Arndt, an eminent German physician, relates, that being one day seated near the bed of one of his somnambulists, on a sudden she became agitated—uttered sighs as if tormented by some vision, exclaimed, 'O heavens! my father! he is dying!' A few moments afterwards she awoke, seemed quite cheerful, and recollected nothing of the anxiety she had so recently manifested. She again relapsed twice into the same state of magnetic sleep, and each time was tormented by the same vision. Being asked what had happened to her father, she answered, 'He is bathed in blood, he is dying.' Soon afterwards she awoke, became composed, and the scene finished. Some weeks afterwards, Dr. Arndt found this lady pensive and sorrowful; she had just received from her father, who was at the distance of some hundred miles, an account of a serious accident which had befallen him. In ascending the stair of his cellar, the door had fallen upon his breast; considerable hæmor-

\* These experiments are open to public investigation, and the belief in the reality of the facts appears, from recent accounts, to be coming much more general.

rhage ensued, and the physicians despaired of his life. Dr. Arndt, who had marked the precise time of the preceding scene during the somnambulism of the lady, found it was the same day and hour as the accident had happened to her father."

"Mademoiselle W., being at the house of M. de R., predicted respecting his son, that he was wounded in the chin in Russia, and under treatment in the hospital, which proved to be the fact. On the arrival of the list of wounded, the son's name was not included, at which the father was delighted, and stated to Mademoiselle W., who was at that time in somnambulist sleep, that for once she had not guessed accurately, and had been completely deceived. At this she was very much offended, and in an angry tone assured the father that she was quite certain of the truth of what she said,—that at that very moment she saw his son in the hospital with a white linen round his chin. Soon afterwards a note arrived, stating that a second list of wounded had been received, in which was the name of the son, who had been struck by a musket-ball in the chin, and was under treatment in the hospital."

"Two persons, while in somnambulism, predicted the death of the king of Wurtemberg. The prediction of the first somnambulist, in which the year and month were announced, occurred four years before the event. The circumstance was kept secret among a few friends, and from the length of time that had elapsed, had been nearly forgotten, when it was unexpectedly confirmed by a second somnambulist, who announced not only the year and month, but also the precise day. The first prediction, which was made by Mademoiselle W., of whose powers mention has been made in the preceding case, took place in 1812, in the presence of several persons, that his Majesty would die in an unusual manner, between the 18th and 20th April, 1816. When questioned in subsequent crises respecting the accu-



racy of this announcement, she said she was quite certain as to the year, but might be mistaken as to the particular month. At a subsequent period, she fixed upon the month of October, without specifying any particular day.

“The second prediction was made by a somnambulist upon the 17th April, 1816, in the presence of three persons, and was to the following effect: His Majesty will die this year, in the month of October. When asked whether the event would take place in the beginning, the middle, or end of the month, she answered, ‘At the end.’ ‘Can you determine the precise day?’ Will it be the 26th?’ ‘No; the 28th: on that day he will be struck with apoplexy.’ The King was actually struck with apoplexy on the day predicted, and died in the course of a day or two after.\*

“This report was drawn up by Professor Eschenmayer, and inserted in the first volume of the German Archives of Animal Magnetism. It is attested by the names of nine well-known individuals, medical men, and other persons of respectability, and the professor declares, that, if necessary, he could adduce two hundred witnesses to prove the truth of the facts.”†

Such is a brief outline of some of the more surprising phenomena recorded and attested by numerous witnesses; and if it be admitted that any one of the facts stated did actually occur, (as the circumstance of the somnambulist Caliste naming a card

\* Another remarkable instance is adduced in Captain Medwin’s *Memoirs of Shelley*.

† A few days ago I met with a German gentleman who, when at Stuttgart, made particular inquiries respecting the above event, which he ascertained to be as stated, and the coincidence of the occurrence with the prediction is not doubted by the inhabitants. The same gentleman stated to me, that Niebuhr the historian being with his son at an inn, called to him in the night, and told him he must expect to hear of the death of his uncle, which had just taken place. This proved to be true, the uncle, who was at a distance and previously in good health, having been taken suddenly ill, and died at the time specified.



selected from a pack by a person incredulous of magnetism, and stuck against the wall of another room,) we are scarcely justified in refusing credence to the others which have been related, of which the only rational explanation appears to me to be, that under certain circumstances, the immaterial principle, the soul, may be temporarily loosed from the bodily organisation; for as the sense of sight does not reside in the eye, nor that of touch in the hand, these parts being merely the organs, by means of which the manifestation of the faculties is made evident, it is not unreasonable to infer that the organs are not, under all circumstances, indispensable for perception. Admitting this to be the case, it is no more impossible that an unknown individual many miles distant should be described, than that a card in an adjoining room should be named by persons in whom these exceptionable conditions exist, space being, as Dr. Jung-Stelling has observed, “Merely the operation of the material organs of sense, out of them has no existence; therefore, as soon as the soul forsakes the latter, all proximity and distance cease. Hence, if it stand in *rapport* with a person many thousand miles distant from it, it can impart knowledge by an internal communication, and receive it from such an one, and all this as rapidly as thoughts follow each other. Time being also in fact a mere mode of thinking, and not existing in reality, the departed soul may be susceptible of future things.”\* “In the words of Epicharmus,” says the author of the work from which I have so largely quoted,† *the mind sees—the mind hears*, everything else is deaf and blind. If the phenomena observed are calculated to excite our wonder, and to call forth our scepticism; if they appear to be inexplicable and irreconcilable with any of our previous notions, let us remember that the cause of this may be found in the narrowness and imperfection of our preconceived systems; and this consideration should lead us to a

\* Isis. Revelata.

† Ibid.

careful review of the principles of our knowledge, rather than to an obstinate and irrational denial of the facts presented to us by experience."

"It will be seen, upon a superficial examination, that animal magnetism is opposed to the opinions of the physiological materialist, the advocate of the organic origin of mind, and exposes, in all their nakedness, the deformity, the scantiness, insufficiency, and utter absurdity of his creed. In animal magnetism we find a practical refutation of all the material theories of the human mind—a most distinct, cogent, and impressive proof of the independent existence of the soul of man, and consequently the strongest philosophical grounds for presuming its immortality, since it has now been demonstrated, beyond the possibility of rational doubt, that in its manifestations it is not necessarily chained down to any particular part of the sensible and mortal body, but that it is capable of exercising its various functions in peculiar circumstances, without the assistance or co-operation of any of those material organs, by means of which it usually maintains a correspondence with the external world."\*

The following lines, quoted in the above-mentioned work, are not inapplicable to the state of somnambulism or trance as one :

"In which the burden of the mystery,  
In which the heavy and weary weight  
Of all this unintelligible world  
Is lightened, that serene and blessed state  
In which the affections gently lead us on,  
Until the breath of this corporeal frame,  
And even the motion of our human blood  
Almost suspended; we are laid asleep  
In body, and become a living soul;  
While with an eye made quiet by the power  
Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,  
We see into the life of things."†

I do not purpose entering into the inquiry how

\* Dr. Georget, in his work on the Physiology of the Nervous System, broadly professed the principles of materialism, which he abjured on becoming acquainted with the phenomena of magnetic somnambulism.

† Wordsworth, Lines on Revisiting the Banks of the Wye.

far animal magnetism may be made applicable as a remedial agent, though there is no doubt that in many functional affections, especially of the nervous system, it is calculated to be of great benefit where other remedies have failed; even were it merely employed as a psychological means. Dr. Weinholt, who wrote a large work on animal magnetism, referred to by Mr. Colquhoun, says—"The cases in which, during a series of years, I have either administered magnetism myself, or caused it to be administered by others, amounts to between seventy-five and eighty. By far the greatest number of these cases consisted of diseases in which I could obtain no relief, or at the utmost a very equivocal alleviation from ordinary medical treatment: diseases of various kinds, acute and chronic, nervous and other tedious complaints. Among the patients there were persons of every age, rank, and sex, married and unmarried. In several of these patients no other phenomenon was observed than a state similar to sleep; in others there was feverish excitement; in many there were disagreeable and painful feelings, and in not a few convulsions. I had frequent opportunities, too, to observe the phenomenon of somniloquism with all its various shades and attributes. In many patients the complaints abated during the process of manipulation, or the patients were restored to health by this treatment, without my being able to discover the cause. But all the patients magnetised did not recover—many continued in the same state as before the treatment—others found only an alleviation of their sufferings; nay, some died. In some the cure was transient, several were only partially, but many completely cured."

The present *aperçu* of the actual state of animal magnetism would be incomplete without some account of another order of phenomena which have been recently elicited, which I subjoin without comment, leaving my readers to form their own opinions respecting them.

The case of a young girl who had been magnetised by Dr. Elliotson for epileptic fits, is referred to by the reporter of a medical periodical, and the following among other phenomena were noticed—(a large assemblage of persons was present at the experiments, including several noblemen, public characters, and former pupils of the Doctor.) After somnambulism was induced, “the first circumstance,” says the report, “that struck us, was the pliant state of the girl’s arms, legs, indeed of her whole person; she could support no part of her frame: great as seemed, however, the universal debility, strength was given by making passes over each respective part. If the arms were lifted by the sleeve, they dropped as soon as they were unsupported, but if passes were made over and along them, they remained up. She could not stand, and when raised, required full support; but passes down and before and behind her from her head to her feet, gradually enabled her to require less support, till at length she stood firmly for a short time, when the temporary power being expended, she fell. Any one in the room produced the same effect upon the patient.

“By waving his fingers in a curling course inside her hand and arm, the extremity was all bent inwards, and no one in the room could force it back: she was lifted out of the chair by several, merely suspended by her bent forearm; but a few waves outside the arm in the opposite direction, instantly produced complete relaxation of the whole limb. A number of other phenomena which Dr. Elliotson considered peculiar to this case were now exhibited. A movement of the manipulator’s finger drew her lip either upwards or downwards; the resemblance of a slight smile was caused by drawing out an angle of the mouth; and again by separating his hands before her mouth in opposite directions, the learned manipulator made the mouth gradually open till she inspired deeply, and yawned. The eyelids also opened in obedience to the operator’s fingers, and the eyes



were seen converging towards the nose, and were moved to the right and left with the utmost rapidity, in accordance with the movements of the finger. There was a remarkable tendency in the subject to follow any movement of the doctor; her hands and feet slowly and with some apparent difficulty rose or moved sideways, precisely according to the direction shown by his hand, though the muscular power seemed too weak to allow this to be done without effort, or to continue. By motion of the manipulator's hand, her arms could be brought into contact or forced asunder so firmly that no one in the room (without a violence that he would be loath to use) could alter this position. After the experiments, "she was left asleep," continues the report, "for a quarter of an hour, when she awoke suddenly of her own accord: the doctor acknowledged that he himself had no power of waking her. We heard a number of gentlemen who entered the room incredulous, admit they were obliged to believe what, without seeing, no power on earth could have compelled them to believe. Such startling facts are not easily believed; yet what after all are they but (with few slight modifications) the common state of somnambulism artificially superinduced?"—*Medical Times*, April 30, 1842.

The following case of phrenological mesmerism is related by Dr. Binns, in the "Anatomy of Sleep." The subject was a spare thin woman of excitable temperament, with pale cast of countenance, reddish hair, hazel eyes, about five feet high, and from twenty-six to thirty years of age. Her station in life is that of a lady's maid. Her master and mistress, Captain and Mrs. Valiant, and several other persons, including the relater of the case, were present. "The patient being placed in a chair, Dr. Elliotson commenced the experiment by directing his hand in a horizontal position to the precordia, or perhaps the epigastrium. In a few moments con-



vulsive twitchings of the hands began to appear; she seemed distressed; the eyelids winked convulsively, and shortly after she fell asleep. This may be considered as the first stage of the phenomena. The second was that of intense fear or horror of being left alone whenever Dr. Elliotson withdrew his hand from hers, or ceased to touch any part of her body. This feeling was on all occasions instantly arrested by simple contact—even by the doctor's foot being applied to hers. A series of most interesting and extraordinary phenomena then developed themselves. The doctor applied the index finger of the right hand upon the organ of veneration, and asked her several questions, to all of which she replied with an expressive humility of feature, and in a submissive tone of voice, that were absolute studies. No artist has more skilfully depicted or actor imitated so perfect an expression of this sentiment. But if this was wonderful, the extraordinary transition to proud disdain, and even to aristocratic hauteur, was astounding. She elevated her head, threw back her shoulders, rose slowly and majestically from her chair, and stood upright before the doctor on his placing his hand on the organ of self-esteem. He said, 'Why do you rise from your seat? Do you think yourself an empress?' 'No;' she replied, with a disdainful toss of the head, 'but I think myself as good.' The finger was rapidly passed to the organ of veneration, and immediately the countenance relaxed; the body sank back in its seat, the proud expression of self-esteem lapsed away, and the humble and servile attendant stood confessed. 'Do you think yourself an empress now?' said the doctor. 'O lauk sir, what should make you think so? I an empress!' but the expression, the tone, the emphasis, were such as beggar description."

"But another and more painful proof of mesmeric influence was now to be elicited. The finger being

applied to the organ of conjugal affection, the effect was truly such as, reflecting upon it, we shall not be surprised if the narration raise a smile at our supposed credulity, incur the odium of misrepresentation, or be denounced as an attempt to minister to the love of the marvellous. It had rested only a few seconds on this organ when a complete change came over her countenance, and deep and agonising grief appeared to absorb her whole frame. The veins of her neck became distended; her features tumid and red; large round tears coursed down her cheeks; her throat seemed choked with grief; she drew her breath convulsively, sighed, sobbed, and at length wept most piteously! Dr. Elliotson asked her, 'What makes you cry?' 'O my poor poor husband!' were all the words she could utter. This state of suffering was continued for several minutes, when the doctor removed it to self-esteem, and then asked, 'What makes you cry?' She replied with disdain, 'Me cry! what should make me cry?' Suddenly the finger was placed on combativeness; when she showed all the signs of impatience, anger, and hatred, struck at Dr. Elliotson, stamped her feet, and in short exhibited the characteristics of a violent termagant. From this organ the finger was removed again to veneration, and she was asked what she saw in the room? She replied, she saw nothing. The doctor said, 'Don't you see the pictures? there is one of Noah's Ark. It must have been a great man who made it.' She replied, 'He must indeed, sir—a very great man! but I never read much about Noah.' The finger was then placed on the organ of wit, and the same questions being asked, she answered, 'I never bothered myself much about Noah, and as to the ark, why any tub that has a bottom will swim.' 'But the maker of it was a very great man,' said Dr. Elliotson. 'I don't care whether he was great or small, I tell you I never bothered about him.'

“ But the expression ! Here it is that all language fails to convey an idea of these extraordinary phenomena. On being asked to sing, and the finger applied to the organ of tune, as set down by phrenologists, she did not respond to the call ; but on Captain Valiant pointing out another spot just on a level with but a little anterior to the ears, she commenced and sang very sweetly. Suddenly, Dr. Elliotson removed the finger at a part of the song where the tune runs ‘ I hate the sight of a sheep or a cow,’ to the organ of philo-progenitiveness, or love of offspring, and then said, ‘ What ! don’t you like the sight of the little lambs ?’ She instantly replied, ‘ O yes, poor dear little things, they are so innocent.’ Then removing it to destructiveness, and putting the same question, she answered, ‘ Like them ! I should like to cut their heads off.’ The finger was then placed on the organ of wit, and she continued, ‘ I’d cut their heads off, because they make such capital soup.’ The organ of memory was also excited by the finger, when she said in a half whisper, ‘ I’ll tell you what we do when mistress goes out : Martha winds up the musical-box, and this is the tune it plays.’ She then hummed a very pretty air.

“ Such,” continues the narrator, “ are the phenomena which we witnessed, and so unparalleled were they in comparison with anything we had ever seen, that we do not know how to impart to our readers the feelings of surprise, of awe, and wonder which agitated our mind. Nor can we find any single word to convey the intense interest, the profound effect, the startling impression, which the case produced on all who were present, unless we employ the scriptural word ‘ miracle,’ as a synonyme for that which in our present state of knowledge seems analogous to an inversion of the law of nature.

“ It must be admitted, that the phenomena we have already related are sufficiently extraordinary, but

they will appear as ordinary facts, when we add that this patient was never mesmerised phrenologically before the preceding Sunday, had never heard of phrenology, is an ignorant countrywoman, and was mesmerised by Captain Valiant, who had never until that day attempted the process. But the crowning fact, the extraordinary sequel, the culminating point to which all that we have said converges is, that having had a tooth extracted by a clumsy dentist who fractured the jaw, from which she suffered great pain and uneasiness; to relieve this pain, she was thrown into the mesmeric trance by Sir Thomas Wiltshire, and in that condition was operated upon by Dr. Charlton, of Chatham; a portion of the splintered bone was removed, the rough edges of the teeth filled, the wound dressed, and the operation completed without her evincing the slightest feeling, or knowing what was done to her. Nay! she could not be persuaded that the operation had been performed, till she perceived the taste of the styptic which had been applied to stanch the blood."

Two analogous cases are related by Dr. Engledue, in a recently-published pamphlet, to one of which only I briefly refer. The subject was a young lady sixteen years old.

"The patient having been placed in the trance, was allowed to remain quiet for a short time. I then simply applied my finger to the organ to be excited, and willed that it should become so. The excitation was in most instances immediate. Thus, the finger applied to imitation produced the most splendid mimicry it is possible to conceive. The words and gestures of friends were copied in the most exact manner. Anecdotes which had been forgotten by all the members of the family, were repeated in a way that brought the circumstances instantly to their recollection, notwithstanding many years had elapsed. On one occasion the manifestation of the faculty was permitted to continue for half an



hour, and was then stopped by a wave of the hand over the organ without contact. The finger on wit produced immoderate laughter, checked by a wave of the hand, and reproduced by a touch of the finger. The finger on colours caused the patient to see a variety of colours which she said were coloured worsteds. The finger on size caused her to say she saw heaps of skeins. When asked the supposed weight of the quantity, she replied she did not know. The finger on the organ of weight caused her to immediately exclaim, "hundreds of pounds."

"Self-esteem, firmness, veneration, benevolence, caution, philo-progenitiveness, &c., were all excited with corresponding results. The natural language of each faculty was most beautiful, and the patient in the natural state could not manifest the function in any similar degree. The organs remained active even after the patient had resumed her natural state. This was so marked, that the attendants have frequently requested me not to demagnetise the organ of benevolence, because when this was allowed to continue active she was so much more kind and affectionate. Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Brookes, Mr. Prideaux, Captain Valiant, and Dr. Elliotson, have all obtained similar results, and experiments have been made in America which also prove the truth of these statements. By a perseverance in these experiments, several new organs have been discovered, but it would be premature to publish the results of a few experiments only. The object is to excite attention and inquiry, and to remove prejudice."

In an appended letter from Dr. Elliotson, the doctor says, "I have had for some months under my care for dreadful fits of many years standing, which are yielding satisfactorily to mesmerism, two charming youthful patients of excellent cerebral development and carefully brought up, of high intelligence and moral character, beautifully illustrat-



ing the power of good training upon a well developed brain ; no poet or moralist could desire finer specimens of all that is delightful in the youthful mind. They have not known each other—they both exhibit exquisite mesmeric phenomena ; are thrown into a profound coma, which no impression on the senses will dispel, and which soon becomes sleep-waking ; their limbs may be stiffened at pleasure and endowed with enormous force, which, although not yielding to mechanical violence, gives way to contact or to the breath, or to movements of the operator's hand without contact, in the direction opposite to that of the limbs' position, the various muscles of the face may be made to twitch as if with electricity, and the eyes be opened or the body be drawn by movements of the fingers and hands held at a short distance ; the position of each finger of the operator's hand will be minutely imitated though the eyes be closed, and the experiment be made out of the patient's sphere of vision. Though showing all the signs of sleep in the breathing, the falling of the head, the aspects, and the exquisite positions, they may be roused to both, but never recognise the person nor the place ; their dream, if so it may be called, is perfectly rational, but the real place and person addressing, and even the time, are invariably fancied otherwise than is the fact.

“ I know to a *certainly* that both are *totally ignorant* of phrenology. Without any previous intention, I one day tried to mesmerise some of the cerebral organs in the young lady. On placing the point of a finger on the right organ of attachment, she strongly squeezed my fingers of the other hand placed in her right hand, and fancied I was her favourite sister ; on removing it to the organ of self-esteem, she let go my fingers, which were in the right hand, repelled my hand, mistook me for a person she disliked, and talked in the haughtiest manner. On replacing the point of my finger on attach-

ment, she squeezed my fingers of the other hand again, and spoke affectionately ; I removed the point of my finger to destructiveness, she let go my fingers again, repelled my hand, mistook me for some one she disliked, and fell into a passion. 'The finger upon benevolence silenced her instantly, and made her amiable though not attached ; and thus could alter her mood and her conception of my person at pleasure, and play upon her head as upon a piano.

“On repeating these experiments I soon found that the same result ensued, though not so rapidly, by merely pointing the finger near the organs, and this was the more satisfactory in demonstrating the facts to others ; and indeed it has been quite satisfactory to every one, for not only were the eyes closed, but stopped up by a handful of handkerchief held firmly upon each eye, and the experiments were made on organs so situated, that had her eyes been open I defy her to know to what organ I was pointing. These experiments I have repeated twenty times ; but a fact still more wonderful is this :—the state of the organ on one side gives evidence of itself on only half of the system ; for instance, if I place my fingers in her right hand, and mesmerise attachment on her *right* side, she squeezes them, and mistakes me for a dear friend ; if I then mesmerise self-esteem on the left side, she still speaks to me kindly, and squeezes my fingers with her right as much as ever. But if I place my fingers in her left hand, she repels them, and speaks scornfully to me, mistaking me for some one whom she dislikes. If I take hold of both her hands with one of mine, I can at pleasure make her repel both, by pointing over each organ of self-esteem or destructiveness ; squeeze both by pointing over each organ of attachment, or repel one and squeeze the other, right or left, accordingly as I point over the organ of self-esteem or destructiveness on the one side, and that of attachment on the other, at the same time. These simul-

taneous and especially the opposite influences on the two sides, are the most astonishing and beautiful experiments that all physiology affords, and the sight of them enraptures every person. They are the more satisfactory, because there is no necessity for me to operate; any person, even a sceptic in both phrenology and mesmerism, may point to and mesmerise her respective cerebral organs himself, if standing behind her. Under the opposite states of the two sides of the brain, she will address the person supposed on the one side or on the other, and speak affectionately, proudly, or angerly, as attachment on the one hand, or self-esteem or destructiveness on the other, is mesmerised. The expression, the love, to say nothing of the words or the action of the hands, are exquisitely and rapidly in character. In the youth, the organs at present can be excited by contact only of the point of the finger, or by breathing over them. Attachment, self-esteem, destructiveness, music, and colour, I have excited in him, and the effects come very slowly and continue on.

“If it should be urged,” continues the doctor, “that these experiments prove nothing for phrenology, because the excitement of certain ideas in the brain of the patient repeated from the mere will of the operator, and not from his manipulations over particular cerebral organs, the answer is easy. The will of the operator certainly must be influential in producing mesmeric sleep, when the mesmeriser is far away from them, and I presume it is, but this can only be one source of power. I have made experiments daily in mesmerism, except the two months when I travel every year, for five years, carefully, with no other desire than that of truth, and in the utmost variety of cases, and have never once discovered the influence of my will. I have never produced any effect by merely willing; I have

never seen reason to believe (and I have made innumerable comparative experiments upon the point) that I have heightened the effect of my processes by exerting the strongest will, or lessened them by thinking intentionally of other things, and endeavouring to bestow no more attention upon what I was about, than was just necessary to carry on the process. So far from willing, I have at first had no idea of what would be the effect of my processes; one set of phenomena have come unexpectedly in one case, and one in another, without my being able to explain the diversity of effect; nay, the same process, *conducted with the same object*, turns out to produce opposite results in different cases; for instance, I can powerfully excite the individual cerebral organs in the young gentleman by breathing over them, but when I breathe over those of the young lady, desiring and expecting the same effects, no excitement is produced; on the contrary, if they are already excited, they at once become inactive. The same effect requires different processes in different persons; point to the epigastrium of some persons, and will with all your might and no result comes, but point to their eyes and they drop asleep; make passes or point at the back of their head, and will with all your might, and either no effect will come, or sleep will not take place before far longer time has elapsed than if you operate before the face; you may make passes in vain with all your might before the faces of some persons, who drop senseless presently if you merely point; and hence is apparent the error of those who gratuitously assert that the processes merely heighten the will of the operator. As to the influence of the operator's will in exciting the *cerebral organs*, the effect ensues well in my female patient though the manipulator be a sceptic, and may therefore be presumed not to wish the proper result to ensue, and though I stand aside and do



not know what organ he has in view, I have never excited them by the mere will—I have excited them with my fingers just as well when thinking of other matters with my friends, and momentarily forgetting what I was about. I have always failed, however much I willed, when I have directed the finger to another organ than that which I wished to excite intentionally, or have accidentally misdirected my finger. I was taken quite by surprise when I found that I mesmerised an organ, self-esteem, for instance, in the half only to which my finger happened to be pointed.”

It appears that similar results have been produced in several parts of England, and in America. The editor of the *Sheffield Independent* observes, with reference to some of these experiments publicly performed by Mr. Spencer Hall, in that town: “We are quite aware that we have here given an account which many persons will read with incredulity, or with strong suspicion that there must have been some trickery. Knowing, however, the parties, having seen some of the subjects operated upon before, and having carefully watched all the proceedings, we are convinced that there can be no collusion. We do not pretend to account for what we saw. It appears to us that these are but the first steps into a wide field of discovery, in which, no doubt, still greater wonders will be developed.”—See the *Phreno-Magnet*, No. 1, February 1843.

From all that has preceded, I think we are justified in concluding:

1st. That the production of convulsive crises and other violent effects by the practice of Mesmer and his disciples, was, in the majority of instances, the consequence most likely to ensue in impressionable individuals from the influence of an excited imagination and of imitation, similar results being frequently seen in the ordinary practice of medicine.

2nd. That a real influence may frequently be



exerted by one individual upon another, so as to produce peculiar sleep or somnambulism, in which total or partial insensibility to external stimulants, cataleptic rigidity of parts, and various other phenomena, may be manifested.

3rd. That in persons who have been already subjected to this influence, the will of the magnetiser is often sufficient to reproduce the effects independently of any manipulations or gestures.

4th. That notwithstanding like effects have occurred in some persons without magnetisation, but who were placed in situations which led them to believe themselves subjected to its influence, yet there are well-authenticated instances of somnambulism, and several of its phenomena, having been produced, when the magnetiser was at some distance, as in an adjoining room, and when the individuals were not aware of the circumstance. This, however, has only occurred in those who had been repeatedly magnetised.\*

5th. That although in several instances there has been deception on the part of magnetisers and somnambulists, yet that many of the phenomena of magnetism have been too well authenticated to admit of reasonable doubts of their existence.

6th. That operations have been performed during the magnetic sleep, without consciousness or the expression of pain by the patient, and that no bad effects have followed these operations.

\* The editor of the *Phreno-Magnet* observes, "We have not yet been able to come to the conclusion of those who believe vital magnetism identical with electricity. It is impossible, however, not to notice this evident analogy—that the influence, whatever it be, has often a tendency to strike from point to point, like that fluid, since we have frequently stood, sat, or stretched ourselves parallel with highly susceptible subjects for a long time, without producing any palpable effect, but have instantly magnetised them by pointing towards them accidentally, either with the fingers or toes, and that in a separate room, as easily as when in their immediate presence. Still instances are not wanting in which no such operation is required, but where most wonderful effects may be produced at immense distances, without any especial motion or position of the operator's body!"

7th. That the fact of *clairvoyance*, or the perception of objects without the assistance of the eyes, or of the sense of touch, has been proved by the testimony of numerous credible witnesses.

8th. That instances of the more surprising phenomena, such as a tolerably accurate description of distant apartments, friends of the persons placed in relation with those somnambulists who possess a high degree of lucidity, the indication of symptoms of disease, the prediction of events, have been brought forward by many credible individuals.

9th. That from what has been already demonstrated to be true, though formerly considered to be impossible, we are not warranted in denying the truth of several of the instances which have been recorded, merely on the grounds of the supposed impossibility of their occurrence; though in the present state of our knowledge they could not be satisfactorily explained.

10th. That, assuming the alledged facts to be as asserted, the most rational explanation which could be offered is the one which has been already given, which would also tend to elucidate the occurrence of several wonderful events, and the fulfilment of predictions which have been hitherto inexplicable, though too precise and peculiar to admit of their being ascribed to accidental coincidences.\*

\* Dr. Binns, after relating the case of Dr. Walker, of Dublin, who was buried alive, observes—"Here is a man who, as it were, possessed an inherent and instinctive knowledge that he should be buried alive, and who was so convinced of it, that he wrote a treatise, with a view if possible to avert so horrid a calamity; and still farther to assure himself, entered into a compact with a second party, for the fulfilment of certain precautions before he should be consigned to earth, yet, disappointed in the end, and compelled to bow to the inscrutable fiat of that law of natural contingencies which the imaginative Greeks erected into a supertheism, and consecrated by the tremendous name of Destiny."

The following case is quoted by the same author from Dr. Abercrombie, who states, "that its accuracy may be relied on in all its particulars." Two sisters had been for some days attending their brother, who was suffering from common sore-throat, severe and protracted, but

11th. That the expression of sentiments in accordance with phrenological manifestations, by persons while in somnambulism, upon the particular organs being excited by magnetising, requires further confirmation.

12th. That animal magnetism under proper regu-

not considered dangerous. At this time one of them obtained the loan of a watch from a friend, her own being out of repair. As this watch was a kind of heirloom in the family of the lady from whom it had been borrowed, particular caution was given lest it should meet with some injury. Both of the sisters slept in a room adjoining that of the brother's, and one night the elder awoke the younger in extreme alarm, and told her that she had dreamed that "Mary's watch had stopped," and that when she had told her of it, she had replied—"Much worse than that had happened, for Charles's breath had stopped also." To quiet her agitation, the younger immediately rose, proceeded to her brother's room, found him asleep, and the watch which had been carefully put away in a drawer, going correctly. The following night the same dream occurred, accompanied by the same agitation, and was quieted in the same manner—the brother being sound asleep, and the watch going. In the morning, after breakfast, one of these ladies having occasion to write a note, proceeded to her desk, while the other sat with her brother in the adjoining room. Having written and folded the note, she was proceeding to take out the watch, which was now in the desk, to use one of the seals appended to it, when she was astonished to find it had stopped. and at the same instant a scream from her sister hurried her to the bed side of her brother, who, to her grief, had just breathed his last. The disease was considered to be progressing favourably, when he was seized with a sudden spasm, and died of suffocation. The coincidence between the stoppage of the watch and the death of the brother, is the most perplexing circumstance of the case, since the mere stopping of the watch, or the death of the brother, might have been explained on very rational principles; or had the watch stopped before or after the death of the brother, it might have been easily supposed to have been forgotten to be wound up; or it might have suffered some injury from the hurry and trepidation incidental to anguish and bereavement, but, as the case is related, it is certainly a most extraordinary, surprising, and mysterious incident."

In the *Life of Sir Henry Wotton*, by Izaac Walton, we find a dream related of Sir Henry's father, Thomas Wotton. A little before his death, he dreamed that the University of Oxford was robbed by townsmen and poor scholars, and that the number was five; and being that day to write to his son Henry, at Oxford, he thought it worth so much pains as by a postscript to his letter to make a slight inquiry of it. The letter was written from Kent, and came into his son's hands the very morning after the night on which the robbery was committed; for the dream was true, and the circumstances, though not in the exact time, and by it such light was given to this work of darkness, that the five guilty persons were presently discovered and apprehended. Wal-

lation is calculated to be serviceable in the treatment of some diseases, but that indiscriminate and incautious experimentation is to be guarded against.

ton also says, "that Thomas Wotton, and his uncle, Nicolas Wotton, who was Dean of Canterbury, both foresaw and foretold the day of their deaths,"\*

\* Anatomy of Sleep.



*Extracts from Bakewell's Natural Evidence of a Future State—a Contribution to Natural Theology. Second Edition, 1840. (With reference to the separate existence and action of mind from the material organisation.)*

“ And when we find that facts in physical science which can be clearly demonstrated, appear to the unenlightened to be impossibilities, even those who possess the most penetrating and well-stored minds should be cautious how they express doubts respecting the possibility or the probability of the operations of nature, for the highest attainment of human knowledge, when compared with omniscience, must be infinitely below the ignorance of the most illiterate, in comparison with the acquirements of the greatest philosophy.—(*Indestructibility of matter.*)

“ Nearly all the known properties of light seem to contradict our best established opinions respecting the laws of motion, and are frequently opposed to the primary evidence of the sense of sight itself; yet, they are proved by demonstration, so clear as not to admit the shadow of a doubt. When we find, therefore, the results of human experience with regard to tangible matter, to be completely inapplicable to so subtle a property as light; how much more diffident ought we to be in drawing conclusions from the observed operations of material substances respecting an essence so inscrutable as that of mind! and if in the former case our deductions from ordinary experience are fallacious, the objection to any presumed operation or state of existence of the mind, founded on no other basis than that of its supposed opposition to common experience, dwindles into nothingness. It is, however, upon this founda-

tion that the objections raised by materialists to the existence of the soul in a separate state from the body—principally if not entirely depend.—(*On light.*)

“The phenomena of magnetism become so familiar from frequent observation, that they cease to excite surprise, but let us for a moment conceive that the properties of the magnet were unknown, and that a traveller from a distant part of the world were to announce the discovery of the loadstone, and of its singular powers. We can readily conceive that the traveller who revealed this discovery would be overwhelmed with ridicule, and his statements would be deemed scarcely more deserving of credence than those of Baron Munchausen. It is upon the same narrow system of philosophising, which presumes all things to be impossible of which the human faculties can form no conception, that the arguments adduced against the existence of the sentient principle in a separate state from that of the body have been principally founded. Every succeeding discovery, indeed, trenches upon the territory of presumed impossibilities, and shows that the operations of nature are not to be circumscribed by the limits which the ignorance of man would impose. But regardless of these repeated checks on his presumption, he adheres to this narrow-minded system of reasoning, and will persevere in denying the possibility of states of being that cannot from their inscrutable nature be brought to the test of positive proofs, though the arguments by which these objections are attempted to be supported, are merely a repetition of those that have been previously refuted in the material world, by the advancing progress of knowledge.—(*Magnetism.*)

“Hence to infer, first, that the results of experience in ordinary cases, are not to be taken as the limits of possibility in questions relating to subtle properties; secondly, that as we perceive causes

constantly operating in the material world, of the nature of which we can form not the least conception, it is not improbable that the still more inscrutable essence of the human soul may be capable of exerting its energies under circumstances that surpass our comprehension; and thirdly, that the separate existence of this subtle property of matter, independently of the matter with which it is combined, affords a close analogy to the separate existence of the sentient principle distinct from the body which it animates.

“It thus that in the progress of knowledge, phenomena which were once attributed to supernatural agency, are gradually discovered to be conformable to established laws. The investigation of these laws shows that the whole course of nature is regulated by fixed and unaltered rules. Forgetful of the gradual steps by which he has risen from a state of ignorant wonder to his present position, and unable to perceive the immense height of the eminence above him, man is apt ignorantly to imagine that he has reached the summit of the hill of science when he has only surmounted some of the obstructions surrounding its base; and it is only when obstacles to his further progress present themselves in forms which he feels his inability to master, that he becomes aware there is a higher ground to be attained, and difficulties to be yet encountered, which his mental constitution cannot overcome.—*(Chemical attraction.)*

“The recollection of the progressive stages of our knowledge, and the consideration that what we at present have acquired is but a small portion of what is yet to be learned, and that when we have attained the utmost bounds of human wisdom, there are innumerable objects of research, which the intellectual powers of man are incapable of grasping, cannot be too frequently recalled to mind for the purpose of checking the vain presumption so irreconcilable

able with sound philosophy, that all supposed effects which are incomprehensible to our limited faculties must be impossible.”—(*Vegetation.*)

“To be able to see without the eye, to hear without the ear, and to feel without touching the objects of sensation, would, we may venture to assert, have been considered utterly impossible, if we had not experience of the fact from the effects of imagination and of dreams. These facts, we contend, afford direct proof in support of the position before advanced, that the percipient principle is independent of the organs of sense, and they lead us to infer also, that the material organisation of the brain, by which the impressions of external objects are conveyed to the mind, must be distinct from the power that receives and retains those impressions; for it would be impossible otherwise to account for the activity of the perceptive power during the time that the brain ceases to hold any direct communication with the material world. But though the mind may and must be affected in its modes of operation by the condition of its corporeal machine, there is no more reason to regard this sympathy between the mind and the body as indicative of the absolute necessary dependence of the former on the vitality of the latter, than there is to imagine that the existence of heat depends on the continued action of the machinery of the steam-engine, by the agency of which the expansive power of that subtle property of matter is exerted.

“Could we, indeed, establish the fact of the mind operating entirely apart from matter, we should be able at once to dispose of the whole question; but our very limited faculties will not permit us to penetrate into the subtle properties of abstract ethereal essences. Though the phenomena of dreams and of spectral illusions do not represent the perceptive faculties to be capable of acting when separated altogether from the corporeal machine, yet we con-



ceive that the proofs which they exhibit of the agency of the perceptive powers, not only without the aid of the organs of sensation, but in direct opposition to the impressions which those organs convey to the brain, are sufficient to establish the abstract independence of the mind.\*—(*Dreams and spectral illusions.*)

“Not only, indeed, is the exercise of the intellectual faculties consistent with immaterial agency, but we may reasonably infer from the analogies presented during the whole course of our investigations, that when the mind is detached from matter, it will exert its energies with greater vigour than when fettered by its connexion with the corporeal machine; and that when perceptions are received and reflected on directly by the mind, without the intervention of material organs or material processes, they will be more clear and comprehensive, and that the real nature and properties of the objects perceived will be divested of that obscurity in which they are involved, when viewed through the medium of subordinate instruments.”—(*Conclusion.*)

\* Several eminent persons have ascribed the phenomena sometimes occurring in states of somnambulism, catalepsy, ecstasy, and dreaming, to the temporary disassociation of the mind from the body.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY G. J. PALMER, SAVOY STREET, STRAND.